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VOLUME

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HISTORY  
OF  
LEE COUNTY  
ILLINOIS

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By FRANK E. STEVENS

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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CHICAGO  
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JASON C. AYRES

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## JASON C. AYRES.

Jason C. Ayres of Dixon was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, August 22, 1835. He is a son of Colonel Sylvanus and Anna (Bean) Ayres and on both sides is descended from old families of New England founded by adventurous colonists from the mother country in early colonial days. Both his grandfathers were revolutionary soldiers and his father served in the war of 1812. His father was a native of Massachusetts and his mother of Saratoga, New York. They settled first in Herkimer county and afterwards removed to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they resided for several years. In 1836 the family moved to Indiana and settled on lands owned by them north of Fort Wayne, which was then a village, to make a home, in what was then an entirely new and undeveloped country. Upon the death of the father, some four years later, the widow with her family returned to Buffalo, New York, where Jason C. Ayres passed his boyhood days and acquired his early education in the schools of that city. He moved to Chicago in 1854 and in December of that year he visited Dixon for the first time, traveling by rail to Rochelle, Illinois, which was then the terminus of the Dixon Air Line, now the Chicago and Northwestern Railway and from thence by stage to Dixon. In March, 1855 he located in Dixon, to which place the railroad had then been completed and has since resided here. He engaged in the real-estate business as a junior partner in the firm of J. Crawford and Company, operating in the northwestern states in the location, purchase and sale of government lands. The partnership was dissolved in 1863 and Mr. Ayres continued the business alone, and in connection therewith he held the office of city clerk and treasurer for some twenty years. In the meantime he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1870 but has since continued to give the greater part of his time and attention to real-estate and financial operations. He was one of the original stockholders and organizers of the Dixon National

Bank and has been president of the bank for more than thirty years.

He was married in May, 1861 to Lavina C., daughter of Dr. John S. Crawford of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Ayres passed away September 21, 1907, survived by one daughter, Mrs. Anna A. Dement, widow of Lewmon D. Dement of Dixon, who with her daughters, Carmen L. and Rosanna V. Dement reside with her father in the old home,—her other daughter, Esther A. Dement, having been united in marriage with Morgan Lloyd Davies of Chicago and residing in that city.

In politics Mr. Ayres has always been a republican, casting his first vote for electors for John C. Fremont, and has taken an active interest in political measures and efforts for party success, but has never sought office or any political preferment or reward. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, one of the oldest lodges in the state, and of Nachusa Chapter, of Dixon Commandery, K. T., and of Freeport Consistory, A. A. S. R. thirty-second degree. Mr. Ayres is widely and favorably known as an active and efficient business man and a public-spirited and influential citizen.

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### EDWARD H. BREWSTER.

The passing years have chronicled the continuous advancement of Edward H. Brewster. He was admitted to the bar in 1892 and to practice in the supreme court of the United States in 1898. Today he is one of the leading representatives of the legal fraternity in Dixon.

Mr. Brewster was born September 20, 1865, in Marion township, this county, his parents being Elbridge G. and Edee (Keyes) Brewster, both of whom were natives of Maine. Removing westward to Illinois in 1852, they settled in Livingston county and afterward came to Lee county, first establishing their home near Amboy but afterward taking up their abode in Marion township in 1863. There the father followed farming for a time but afterward removed to Cordova, Rock Island county.

Mr. Brewster there attended the public schools in the winter months but spent the summer seasons on a farm in Lee county. At the age of seventeen years he located permanently in this county and engaged in teaching school for five years. He divided his earn-

ings with his parents and utilized his half in meeting the expenses of a course in the Northern Illinois Normal School at Dixon. His attention was devoted to literary branches and he was graduated in 1888. As his health was somewhat impaired at that time he started, with his brother Charles W., down the Mississippi river in a row boat from Cordova, Illinois, to the gulf of Mexico hoping the outdoor life and exercise would prove beneficial. This hope was realized and in the spring of 1889 he returned to the north. He made his home with his parents but accepted a position as principal of the schools at Prairieville, Illinois, in 1889-90. At the end of the school year he went to Dixon, intent upon studying law. He had refused good positions as a teacher and in so doing looked beyond the exigencies of the moment to the possibilities and opportunities of the future. He arrived at Dixon with a cash capital of sixty-five dollars—all that he possessed—and took up bachelor quarters with a companion. He read law in the office of A. C. Bardwell, who directed his reading for two years. In the meantime he also pursued a law course in the Northern Illinois College of Law and was graduated with the class of 1892. The same year he opened an office in Dixon. In 1896 he was elected state's attorney for Lee county and served for four years, refusing to again be a candidate. He felt that his practice and other business interests demanded his entire attention.

Year by year he has achieved success which has been well earned. He is today regarded as one of the able and successful members of the Lee county bar, and may truly be said to be a self-made man, owing his education and his progress very largely to his own efforts. Aside from his practice he has various other business interests. He is a stockholder in the Dixon National Bank and a director in the Reynolds Wire Company of Dixon. He is likewise counsel for the Reynolds Wire Company and also for the Sandusky Portland Cement Company of Dixon. He takes a lively interest in the nomination and election of honest and capable officials. Although not a politician in the usually accepted sense of the term, he has been active in various republican county and state conventions and his opinions carry weight in party councils. His fraternal relations are indicated by his membership in Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., and also in Dixon Lodge, No. 779, B. P. O. E.

Mr. Brewster is also well known as a progressive farmer, having given close study to the scientific phases of crop production. He operates a farm of four hundred and eighty acres which he and



his brother own and he also oversees and attends to more than seven hundred acres owned by his wife, the last being devoted solely to the production of live stock for the Chicago market. In the management and control of the two properties Mr. Brewster displays thorough knowledge, not only of the ordinary phases of the business, but also of the great principles which underlie all agriculture.

On the 5th of February, 1902, Mr. Brewster was united in marriage to Miss Adessa Hughes, a daughter of the Hon. Charles H. and Hannah (Williams) Hughes. They now have two children, Hughes, born June 24, 1906, and Louise, born February 19, 1908. He makes his home in Dixon but spends the summers with his family at Hazelwood, a beautiful and historic spot near Dixon on the Rock river, a sketch of which appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Brewster is a great lover of nature and enjoys outdoor life, so that he freely avails himself of the opportunity of spending the summer months in their attractive home, Hazelwood. His life record is a splendid illustration of the fact, that in this land opportunity is open to all, unhampered by caste or class. Laudable ambition, energy and fair dealing have been the salient traits which have carried him to success in his professional and business career.

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#### HENRY F. GEHANT.

Henry F. Gehant, president of the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company of West Brooklyn, has won for himself an enviable reputation in connection with financial interests not more by reason of his enterprise and progressive methods than by his straightforward, honorable dealing. Since 1866 he has made his home in Lee county and has therefore witnessed the growth and development of this section of the state for forty-seven years, taking an active part in bringing about its present prosperity since attaining man's estate. He was born near Mattoon, Illinois, May 4, 1863, and is a son of Laurent and Julia (Toullian) Gehant. The father came from France in 1854 and settled at Lee Center, where he worked in a stone quarry. He afterward purchased a farm in Shelby county, whereon he remained for ten years, returning to Lee county in 1866, at which time he purchased a tract of land in Brooklyn township, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1897, when he had reached the age of

seventy-eight years. His wife survived until 1899 and passed away at the age of seventy-two years. They were laid to rest in the West Brooklyn cemetery.

Henry F. Gehant acquired his education in the public schools of West Brooklyn, which he attended to the age of eighteen years, from eight to thirteen weeks in the winter season being devoted to the mastery of his studies. Throughout the remainder of the year, or from the time of the early spring planting until the crops were harvested in the late autumn, he worked upon his father's farm, which he continued to develop and improve until he reached the age of twenty-four years. He purchased his first farm when twenty-two years of age and upon leaving the old homestead took up his abode upon that place—a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, in Viola township. The succeeding six years were devoted to its cultivation and improvement, after which he purchased a general mercantile establishment in West Brooklyn, carrying on that business for three years. He then sold out and established his present business in 1897. From the beginning the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company has enjoyed continuous prosperity. The banking business is carefully organized and conducted along lines of enterprise and progress and the reliability and trustworthiness of its business methods are known to all. In addition Mr. Gehant is president of the Farmers Elevator Company and is also the owner of valuable property in the county, including the old homestead and a tract of seventy acres near the village of West Brooklyn.

On the 17th of October, 1888, at Sublette, Illinois, Mr. Gehant was married to Miss Eliza Py, a daughter of Sylvan and Mary Py. The father was a pioneer farmer who came to this county in 1848, settling in East Grove township. Both he and his wife have passed away and are laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery at Amboy. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have become the parents of six children. Oliver, now cashier in his father's bank, was the first graduate of the West Brooklyn high school and is also a graduate of the Notre Dame University of Indiana, where he received a gold medal for having made the highest percentage in his studies among the graduates of that year. Julian is the wife of Joseph P. Soudgroth, a farmer of Viola township, and is a graduate of the West Brooklyn high school. Henry W., also a graduate of that school, is now a rural mail carrier and also assistant cashier with the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company. Mary and Albert are both high school pupils and Ruth is a student in the public schools.

In his political views Mr. Gehant is a democrat and upon the party ticket was elected to the office of township clerk, in which he served for two years. He has also been president of the village board for eight consecutive terms and has been supervisor of Brooklyn township for seven years. He has likewise been a member of the general assembly for two years and in all of these offices has been most faithful and loyal. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Gehant belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. Laudable ambition has actuated him in all of his business career and he finds his greatest happiness in providing well for his family. What he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion, allowing no obstacles or difficulties to bar his path if they can be overcome by persistent and determined effort.

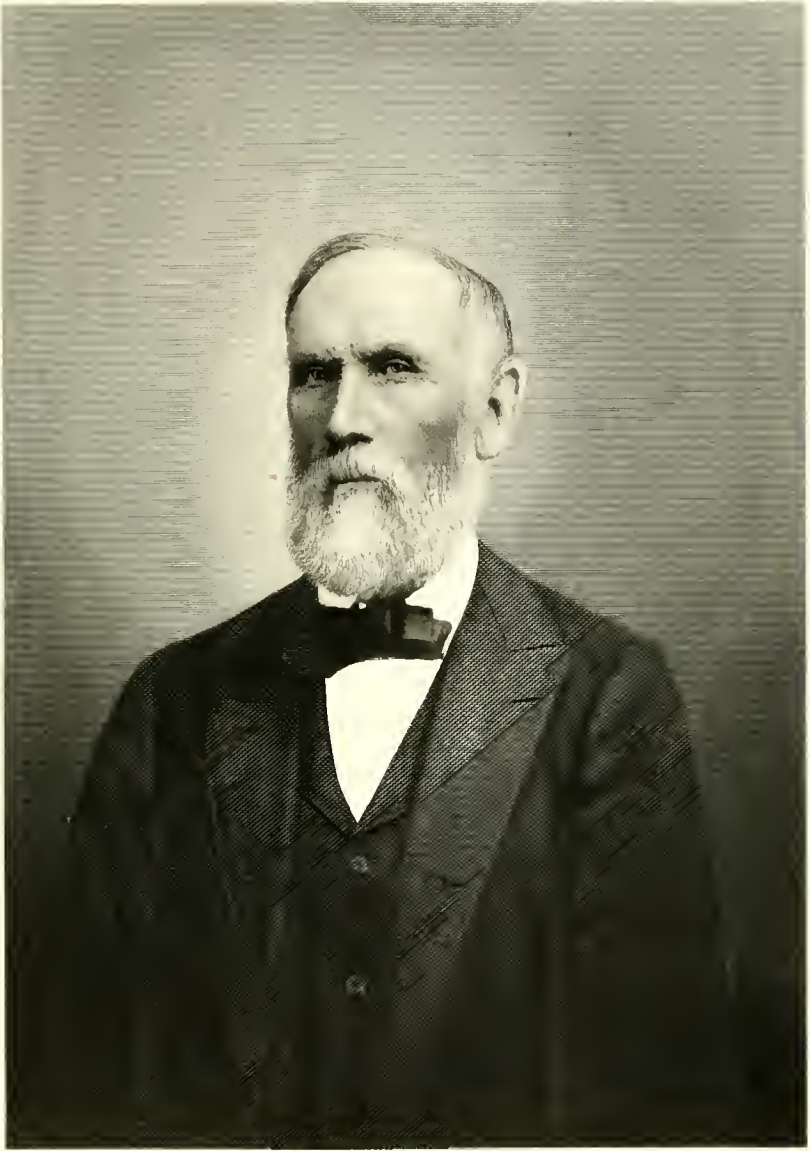
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### SYLVANUS COBB HAUSEN.

Sylvanus Cobb Hausen, who resided on section 3, China township, was born in Maine, October 17, 1825, and died on his farm a mile west of Franklin Grove, January 17, 1912. He had long been a resident of this part of the state and was therefore well known, while his many substantial traits of character gained for him the respect and good-will of all. His parents were Charles and Mary Jane Hausen. His father, a native of Germany, came to the United States and took part in the Revolutionary war, acting as forage master in Washington's army. In the family were five sons: William Henry, Harrison, Charles, Sylvanus and Norman, but Charles is the only one now living. The two eldest came to Illinois in 1838, and Sylvanus C. Hausen arrived in the fall of 1840 in company with his brother Charles. The father had purchased a claim in Lee county which he afterward sold to the subject of this review.

Sylvanus C. Hausen was but fifteen years of age when he came to Illinois. Throughout the entire period of his residence in this state he was connected with agricultural pursuits. He bought from his father the claim which the latter secured from the government and upon that place Sylvanus C. Hausen continued to engage in general farming until his death. He originally had one hundred and twenty acres in the old homestead, to which he afterward added a tract of forty acres. He brought his farm to a





*Sylvanus C. Hansen*



high state of cultivation and employed modern, progressive methods in its development and improvement. This did not cover the extent of his possessions, however, for from time to time he added to his holdings until he was the owner of about eight hundred acres in this county at the time of his demise. About 1908 he erected a large brick residence containing twelve rooms and he added many other substantial improvements to his place, including substantial barns and outbuildings adequate for the shelter of grain and stock.

In 1859 Mr. Hausen was united in marriage to Miss Sabrina Jane Fellows, who was born in Baldwinsville, New York, September 30, 1839, a daughter of David and Harriet (Lobdell) Fellows, who were natives of Westford, New York. They removed from New York to Belvidere, Illinois, in the year 1855 and afterward went to Michigan, where their last days were passed. Mrs. Hausen was a young lady of sixteen years when she came to this state and remained in Belvidere until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Hausen were born five children: Ida C., who is the widow of Frank Moulton and resides in Nachusa township; Charles Frederick, living in the same township; Lillian, the wife of Loren J. Townsend, of Charles City, Iowa; Grace, the wife of Simon D. Remley, of Franklin Grove; and May E., the wife of George W. Brown, who is living on the old homestead.

Mr. Hausen was named for a Universalist preacher, and it was the faith of that church that he followed throughout his life. In politics he was a democrat. He did not seek to figure prominently in any public connection being content to faithfully perform his daily duties and enjoy the rewards which his labors brought to him. His life was a busy and useful one, and his was the first death which occurred upon the old homestead that his father had entered from the government many years before.

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### MAJOR OBADIAH J. DOWNING.

Few men living today are more familiar with the history of the state than Major Obadiah J. Downing, of Dixon, now a venerable man of seventy-eight years. Although he has advanced far on life's journey and the snows of many winters have whitened his hair, the springtime of youth is in his heart. In spirit and in his interests he has never seemed to grow old and, keeping in touch

through wide reading with the world's progress, he converses most interestingly upon subjects of vital moment to city, state and nation. Yet Major Downing was one of the supporters of Fremont in 1856 and was one of the earliest merchants of northern Illinois. His birth occurred at North Hempstead, Queens county, New York, in 1835 and he is descended from good old Revolutionary stock, his ancestors having been among the earliest settlers of the Empire state. The old colonial farmhouse which was the family homestead was the birthplace of his great-grandfather and of succeeding generations down to the present time. George Downing, the great-grandfather, spent his entire life in New Hampshire and was a soldier in the Continental army, serving under General Woodhull in the struggle for American independence.

After spending the first fifteen years of his life in Queens county, Long Island, New York, Major Downing made his way westward to Chicago to accept the position of clerk in the store of his uncle, Obadiah Jackson. That year the railroad was extended westward and Mr. Jackson, who was the proprietor of one of the leading wholesale houses of Chicago of that day, planned to extend his business by establishing branch stores. He carried a complete line of general merchandise and people came from a distance of one hundred and fifty miles to trade with him. In 1853 with the building of the railroad he opened the first store in Kankakee, Illinois, and placed his nephew, Major Downing, in charge. The latter successfully managed the business until 1855, when with the building of the railroad to Warren, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, Mr. Jackson sent him there to open another store. A year later ill health compelled Major Downing to resign his position and he returned to New York, where he engaged in farming and took up the study of law.

At the beginning of the Civil war, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the first cavalry regiment organized for service in the Union army. On account of delay in effecting the full organization, however, it was organized as the Second New York Regiment of Cavalry and was attached to the army of the Potomac, in all of the battles of which Major Downing took an active part with the exception of the first battle of Bull Run. On the 2d of May, 1864, at Richmond, Virginia, he was captured and was not exchanged until the 22d of February, 1865, in the meantime suffering all of the hardships of southern prison life. When released he rejoined his regiment and as a member of the staff of General Custer served until the close of the

war. About the 10th of April, 1865, he was detailed to Washington to deposit some flags and was in Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14th, when President Lincoln was shot, and went with the party that conveyed the president to his house across the street. Continuing in the capital until the close of hostilities, he there participated in the Grand Review, when thousands of victorious Union soldiers marched through the city, passing along the broad Pennsylvania avenue, over which hung a banner inscribed "The only debt which this country owes that she cannot pay is the debt which she owes her soldiers."

Our subject was commissioned lieutenant on his entrance into the army and was promoted to the ranks of captain and major. He was commissioned colonel by brevet toward the close of the war.

On the 5th of June, 1865, Major Downing was honorably discharged and after his return to the north was elected a member of the New York legislature for the years 1866 and 1867. He served for two terms and in the latter year again came to Illinois, locating at Dixon, where he began the manufacture of flax bagging at Dixon, this being the first flax tow bagging made in the United States. The factory which he occupied is still standing on the bank of Rock river. He conducted the business for two years and then sold out, turning his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed in both Lee and Kane counties, purchasing three hundred acres of land in Lee county and six hundred acres in Kane county. He resided in Kane county until 1876, when he returned to Dixon and here engaged in the agricultural implement business until 1877. He retired permanently from business cares in 1892 and has since lived in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly merits. He has made judicious investment of his capital, so that he derives a very gratifying annual income. He is one of the directors of the City National Bank and was also a director of the old Lee County Bank, having been elected in 1883.

In early manhood Major Downing was married to Miss Mary Yates, a daughter of Bartholomew and Nancy Yates, of Attica, New York. They became the parents of four children: Mary O., now the wife of Dr. Z. W. Moss, of Dixon; George J., a merchant of this city; Benjamin F., who is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Dixon; and Eudora, now the wife of John M. Stager, of Sterling, Illinois.

Major Downing was reared in the Quaker faith. His life has been largely patterned after the golden rule and his many sterling traits of character have commended him to the confidence, good-



will and respect of all who know him. He is a charter member of Dixon Post, No. 299, G. A. R., and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. Since 1856 he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity and in his life exemplifies its beneficent spirit. He cast his first presidential vote for Fremont in 1856 and has continuously supported the republican party since that time. His early connection with mercantile interests and his later identification with the commercial and agricultural life of Illinois have made him well known as a citizen here. More than six decades have passed since he first arrived in this state and his memory today forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. Throughout his entire life he has been actuated by a spirit of loyalty that has ever been as pronounced in days of peace as when he followed the old flag on the battlefields of the south.

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#### HON. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DOWNING.

Hon. Benjamin Franklin Downing, conducting a real-estate, loan and insurance business at Dixon, with a clientage that makes his interests extensive and important, has in the midst of his business affairs also found time for public office, in which connection he has made an equally creditable record. Dixon claims him as a native son, his birth here occurring in 1880. His father, Colonel O. J. Downing, is a well known citizen and, ambitious for his son, provided him with liberal educational opportunities, his high-school course being supplemented by study in the University of Wisconsin. In 1899 he entered business circles of Dixon in connection with mercantile interests and for eleven years was active as a representative of commercial affairs here, conducting one of the leading stores of the city. In 1910, however, he sold out. In 1912 he established a real-estate, loan and insurance business, since which time he has largely handled western lands, making extensive sales. He has thoroughly informed himself concerning property values in the sections of the country in which he operates and he is equally well known as a representative of some of the strongest insurance companies of the country. He likewise places loans and his clientage in each department of his business is large and gratifying.

In 1903 Mr. Downing was married to Miss Mary L. Graves, of Dixon, and they have one child, Mary Louise. Theirs is an attractive and hospitable home and its good cheer is greatly enjoyed by a circle of friends that includes the leading residents of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Downing hold membership in the Episcopal church and are actively interested in its work, Mr. Downing serving as one of its vestrymen. He has attained high rank in Masonry, becoming a Knight Templar in the Dixon commandery while also crossing the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. His name is likewise on the membership roll of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He has always taken a great interest in community and state welfare and progress, and appreciation of his loyalty and public-spirited citizenship has come to him in election to several offices. In 1906 he was chosen alderman from his ward and in 1908 was elected to represent his district in the state senate. While a member of the upper house he gave careful consideration to all questions which came up for settlement and left the impress of his individuality upon a number of measures which now find a place on the statutes of the state. Mr. Downing is widely recognized as a high type of our American manhood and chivalry and it is a known fact that no plan or movement for the benefit of the city along lines of advancement and improvement seeks his aid in vain.

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### JOHN MEISTER.

John Meister, deceased, was for many years closely and influentially identified with agricultural interests of Lee county and his energy and enterprise gained for him a high place among representative farmers of this locality. He was born in Bradford township, this county, March 14, 1864, and is a son of Conrad and Rosa Meister, natives of Germany. The parents came to America about 1854 and located in Bradford township, where the father still resides.

John Meister was reared upon the homestead and remained with his parents until his marriage in 1897. Following this he began farming independently and his efforts were rewarded by constantly increasing success. He owned one hundred acres of land on section 9, Bradford township, and developed this along the most practical and progressive lines. He made it a productive and



valuable property and remained active in its operation until his death. He passed away August 11, 1912, and was laid to rest in Ashton cemetery. His death was widely and sincerely regretted, for his honorable and upright life had gained him many friends in his native township.

In 1897 Mr. Meister was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Walter, who was born in Germany, May 1, 1866, a daughter of John and Anna E. (Shady) Walter, also natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1868 and located in Bradford township, where both passed away. In their family were seven children, of whom six are yet living. To Mr. and Mrs. Meister five children were born, Clara M., George C., Mary L., Wilbert W., and a child who died in infancy. Mrs. Meister owns the homestead and makes her home upon it. She is well known in Bradford township and her many excellent qualities of mind and character have gained her a wide circle of friends.

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### HENRY W. REITZ.

Henry W. Reitz, who was born June 20, 1860, a son of Adam and Barbara Reitz, now lives retired on his excellent farm located on section 34, Ashton township, Lee county, the operation of which he leaves to his oldest son, John A., whose career is recorded under a separate caption. Mr. Reitz of this review remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, when he married Miss Mollie Ventler. He enjoyed a common-school education and when young became well acquainted with such agricultural methods as lead to success. He made good use of his knowledge and brought his farm holdings to a high state of cultivation before he turned over the actual management of his land to his son, although he still resides upon his farm, having, however, largely withdrawn from the active work connected therewith. After his marriage he engaged in farming, buying the property upon which he yet lives and which comprises one hundred and sixty acres. He gave his sole attention to improving this land and placing there-upon modern equipment, and as profits resulted he acquired more property, now owning three hundred and eighty acres. Two sets of buildings can be found upon his land and all of these are in the best state of repair.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Reitz were born four children: John A., Emma B., Lilly M. and Harvey A. Mr. and Mrs. Reitz are members of the Lutheran church and politically the former is a republican. He has always interested himself in the progress and advancement of the township and county and has served for some time as a road commissioner. Mr. and Mrs. Reitz are highly esteemed by all who know them and enjoy the confidence and goodwill of their friends and neighbors.

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### A. F. MOORE, M. D.

Dr. A. F. Moore, president of the Lee County Medical Society and a practitioner in Dixon since 1895, was born in Polo, Illinois, in 1867, a son of A. F. and Maria (Cutts) Moore, the father a native of New Hampshire, the mother of Maine. Coming to Illinois in 1848, they settled at Buffalo Grove and subsequently removed to Polo. The father was a farmer by occupation, devoting his entire life to the work of tilling the soil.

At the usual age Dr. Moore entered the public schools of his native town and then, in preparation for the practice of medicine, entered the Marion-Sims Medical College at St. Louis, in which he completed the full course, being graduated with the class of 1895. Immediately afterward he came to Dixon, opened an office in this city and has since been engaged in general practice here. He manifests the utmost care in the preparation of his cases, his diagnosis is accurate and his sagacity keen. He is continually promoting his knowledge through reading and study and no professional subject can be broached upon which he cannot express an intelligent opinion.

On the 21st of January, 1902, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Moore and Miss Frances Craig Smith, of Cheboygan, Michigan, who died on the 19th of September, 1909. The Doctor's fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Masonic fraternity and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is well known in the military circles of the state as surgeon of the Third Brigade of the Illinois National Guard and as a member of the staff of Brigadier General Edward Kittleson of Moline. Politically Dr. Moore is a republican, but his professional duties leave him no time for activity along that line. His standing among his professional brethren is high, as is indicated in the fact that he

is now president of the Lee County Medical Society. He is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, the North Central Medical Society, the American Medical Association and Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. In addition to his private practice he is acting as surgeon for the Northwestern Railway and his ability in both medical and surgical practice has carried him far beyond the point of mediocrity, gaining him a place in the front rank among Lee county's physicians.

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### HON. CHARLES H. HUGHES.

No citizen of Lee county has been more faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation than Hon. Charles H. Hughes, who at the time of his death on the 12th of May, 1907, was serving as state senator from his district. He won distinction in every relation of his life. He was a successful and progressive farmer, an enterprising and sagacious banker, an astute, clear-headed and public-spirited citizen and political leader, a loyal friend and devoted husband and father. He had a wide acquaintance among the most prominent residents of Illinois and their expressions of regret at his passing showed how deeply he was honored by them and how greatly his worth was appreciated.

His life record had its beginning in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, his birth occurring near Berwick on the 13th of April, 1846. He was descended from Welsh and German ancestry, his forefathers having crossed the Atlantic to America at an early period in the development of this country. The family history contains the names of many who contributed to the successes of the Revolutionary war and molded the later history of the republic. His parents were Elwood and Elizabeth (Hill) Hughes, in whose family he was the fourth child. His father was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and made farming his life work. The mother was a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. For many years they resided in the Keystone state but in 1870 came to Illinois, where the father made his home until his death which occurred in 1894. Following her husband's death the mother made her home with her son, Charles H., until his death. She died in the city of Dixon in August, 1909, at the ripe age of ninety-one years. Her living children are E. C. Hughes, now a prominent attorney of Seattle, Washington, and Mrs. James Hill of Los



HON. CHARLES H. HUGHES





Angeles, California. Her oldest son, John N. Hughes, Captain of Company B, 210th Pennsylvania Volunteers was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness and died a few weeks later. Her fourth son, William E. Hughes, died at the age of four years in 1855. Her second son, B. F. Hughes, a lawyer by profession and at one time a member of the state senate of Pennsylvania and also assistant postmaster of Philadelphia, died at his home in Philadelphia, in October, 1913. Her youngest son, Edward A. Hughes, died in Clinton, Iowa, in 1902 while serving his third term as mayor of that city.

Charles H. Hughes acquired his early education in the public schools of Berwick, Pennsylvania, and afterward had the opportunity of attending the Susquehanna University. He was a young man of twenty-two years when in 1868 he came to Illinois, where he took up the occupation of farming being actively connected with agricultural pursuits in Lee county for twenty-two years. In the management of his fields he displayed keen discernment, thorough understanding of the best methods of tilling the soil and indefatigable industry. These qualities won him success as the years passed on and made him in time the possessor of a handsome competence. At the time of his demise he was still the owner of his farm lands and personally directed their operation. In addition he had business interests in Dixon in which city he took up his residence in 1892. The following year he became connected with the Dixon National Bank as one of its stockholders and at the time of his demise was its cashier. During the later years of his life he devoted his attention largely to the management of the bank, the success and upbuilding of which are largely attributable to his efforts. He was always strictly honorable and straightforward in his dealings and was ever willing to assist the patrons of the bank to any degree that would not imperil the safety of other depositors. He was an excellent judge of human nature and was therefore seldom, if ever, at fault in giving substantial evidence of his confidence in an individual. His entire business career was characterized by progress. He always followed constructive methods so that his path was never strewn with the wreck of other men's failures. He readily recognized and grasped opportunities and the wise use which he made of his time and talents brought him substantial return.

It was not long after he came to Lee county that Mr. Hughes was united in marriage to Miss Hannah E. Williams, a daughter of the late Mark Williams of Palmyra, this county. Theirs was

an ideal married life, most close companionship existing between them because of their mutual interests and the similarity of their tastes. To their friends they delighted to extend the hospitality of their home which was bereft of the wife in 1903. There is an only living child, Adessa, the wife of E. H. Brewster, a lawyer in Dixon, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Two other children of the marriage, Mark W. and Vera L., have long since passed away.

Mr. Hughes was recognized as one of the political leaders of Lee county and in all of his political activity was actuated by an unfaltering devotion to the public welfare. He was first elected to office in Palmyra township, being chosen township assessor in 1876. He was reelected for three terms and in 1879 was elected supervisor from his township, which position he filled for one year. In 1886 he was elected treasurer of Lee county for a term of four years and added further laurels to his good name as a public official. In March, 1895, he was chosen mayor of Dixon; was reelected in 1896 and again in 1900. It is said that he was the best mayor the city ever had. He worked toward high ideals but at the same time used practical methods. He was active in the development of the city, in the paving of the streets and in the establishment of other public improvements. He became an active factor in state politics in 1900, when he was elected to the lower house of the Illinois legislature. At the close of his two years' term he was nominated and elected state senator in the thirty-fifth district and his course during the succeeding four years was indorsed by a reelection. At the time of his death he was in the first year of his second term. He was a recognized power in the senate, one who wielded a wide influence because of his businesslike methods, his capability and his recognized devotion to the general good. He won and retained the respect and confidence of the leading legislators and statesmen of Illinois.

Mr. Hughes was also prominent in fraternal circles. In November, 1884, he was initiated into Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., of Dixon and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on the 5th of March, 1885. He served as worshipful master of his lodge and he was a member of Nachusa Chapter, No. 56, R. A. M. and filled nearly all of the offices in the chapter, including that of high priest. He was created an Knight Templar in Dixon Commandry and at all times he was loyal to the teachings and to the beneficent spirit of the craft. He was likewise a member of Dixon Lodge, No. 779, B. P. O. E.



Mr. Hughes had been in poor health for some time but the immediate cause of his death was an injury received when his saddle horse fell. He went to Excelsior Springs, Missouri, for treatment and there passed away on May 12, 1907. The remains were brought back to Lee county and interred in the Palmyra cemetery on which occasion many of his colleagues in the state senate, and other prominent men throughout the state, as well as his relatives and old-time friends were in attendance. Perhaps no better summary of the life and of the character of Hon. Charles H. Hughes can be given than by quoting from the Dixon Daily Sun of May 18, 1907. Among other things that paper said:

“Charles H. Hughes was one of the leaders of the public life of this community. Though he has silently gone from the ranks and the gap may appear to fill with unseemly haste the good that he did will survive him and will even perhaps survive the memory of his name with the busy majority of the community where he lived and loved and labored. His influence will pass into the minds and hearts of his fellows and there will live and unconsciously manifest itself in the actions of their days yet to come.

“About ten years ago Charles H. Hughes was elected mayor of Dixon. At that time there were few of the modern and permanent improvements within the limits of the city. The civic pride of the city had not kept pace with its commercial spirit.

“As mayor of Dixon, Mr. Hughes decided to pave the streets, at least in the business center, and replace the plank sidewalks with safe and durable walks of cement. Knowing that this would be seriously opposed, he quietly laid his plans, but he laid them well and with an indomitable will he carried them into speedy realization. The feeling of many of the business men of Dixon ran high against this improvement and the action of the mayor was condemned in the harshest terms. But he pursued his course with words of reason for a time and then in silence. Over the opposition he triumphed. To do this it took great will and sterling courage. It is much harder to contend for what you believe to be right in a small community where the long association of the people has ripened into friendship than it is upon the broader field of the world's activities. Time proved that the mayor was right in his contention and the improvements once started were continued until now Dixon is one of the most finely improved cities in the state. Besides the convenience of these improvements there is one value that is not generally considered. This is the fact that gracious and well kept streets and sightly public im-

provements have an effect in developing the higher and more artistic taste of any community. This is one of the features of Dixon which Mr. Hughes initiated and helped develop and in the years to come, if it is not now, this will be remembered as one of the most beneficent achievements of his busy life. Mr. Hughes held other offices which are supposed to carry higher honor with them, but in none of them did he accomplish a greater work. In municipal government it must be remembered that 'It is the lack of civic consciousness, of a sense of responsibility for the whole municipality at least that makes private comfort more commanding than public duty; makes a man more solicitous for the condition of the lawn which is his own luxury than for the street and alley which is everybody's necessity.' In at least partially arousing this consciousness in Dixon Mr. Hughes did a work which will be more warmly be commended with the passing of the years.

"In politics Mr. Hughes was an ardent republican. He accepted all the teachings of the party and venerated its customs. He was content to be a worker in the ranks; a plain, persevering laborer with great confidence in his own efforts and ever seeking results rather than reward. He served two terms in the legislature and as a member of that body he framed and secured the passage of the law which made it possible for Lee and Ogle counties to build the Grand Detour bridge. At his death he was serving his second term as state senator. As senator he assisted in the passage of many important measures, one of the latest and of most importance to the citizens of Dixon is the measure which made it possible for Dixon to accept Lowell park as a gift for the use and pleasure of the people. His executive ability and steadfastness of purpose made him a power politically. It was these qualities which made him one of the leaders of the Cullom forces in the latter's contest for his seat in the United States senate eight years ago. It was also these qualities that made him manager of Congressman Frank O. Lowden's candidacy for the republican nomination for governor of Illinois. In these contests no policies of grave importance were involved but the questions were those of personal preference among the members of the republican party. They were purely questions of leadership in that party.

"A man who possessed the determination and sturdy will of Mr. Hughes often aroused spirited opposition among his co-workers and this he often did among his political associates. But through these same qualities he overcame opposition. His politi-

eal honors were seldom thrust upon him but were nearly always the result of victorious contests. The last contest against him for his seat in the state senate did not even reach the floor of the convention hall where the republican candidates were nominated. This was not because the opposition to him was not determined in certain quarters but simply because those who opposed him grew fearful of defeat and abandoned the fight rather than suffer the consequences.

“In properly studying the life work of any man the conditions of the time which form the background for the picture must also be considered. The political life of Charles H. Hughes ran through a time of the ugly wounds of the Civil war and into a time of wondrous prosperity in his own country. Commercialism was all pervasive. It permeated all the varying lines of man’s activity. The politicians of all parties were enamored of expediency. They contended for temporary victory and personal advancement rather than for the principles that shall make the world better and the people happier in all the years yet to come. Silently and ominously rearing its massive walls at the side of the highway of public activity was a neglected temple. Here unnoted and in most cases unhonored gathered the prophets of a better time. They weighed all questions as world-problems which must finally be settled at world tribunals and ‘according to everlasting principles that obtain in all nations, underlie all ages and overreach all righteous courts.’ Their theories were considered impractical, yet about that temple was the purer atmosphere that inspires the souls of men. Those who reached it must ‘struggle up the steps, they must travel a road that is a lonesome road—a road that is rocky and dusty and that has neither springs nor shade trees beside it. But the road along which are found the footprints of genius and the finger-boards that point to immortality.’ Out of this temple are marching the delegates to the international peace conference and a year ago they established an international institute of agriculture having its seat at Rome. Out of this temple will come the forces to purify politics and make the world’s work one of universal brotherhood.

“Charles H. Hughes saw all of this and the passing and ephemeral work in the field of politics tinged his later and riper years with something of pathos. But what he missed in human nature he found in nature.

“When man disappoints the moon holds. He ever devoted much of his time to his farming interests and in the Blue Book

of Illinois officials his occupation is given as that of a farmer. When not at the Dixon National Bank, where for years he held the position of cashier, he gave himself over to the charm of the country. He knew the gospel of the star and the daisy and the peace which seems to brood over field and forest. He found solace in the stability of elm and oak and a lesson in the patience of the pine. The beauty of the wild flower and the clinging vine appealed to him. He watched his growing crops with care and interest and his live stock was his especial pride. The Christ is ever manger-born and the religion of the country gave the deepest solace to his years. He purchased Hazelwood, one of the most historic and beautiful of the wooded bluffs along Rock River. He preserved and refitted the log cabin there and the stretches of grass and trees which surrounded it were given his special attention. There, in that quiet spot, so lavishly garnished by the hand of nature, he found his greatest pleasure in entertaining friends.

“In the quaint and beautiful Palmyra cemetery the friends of Charles H. Hughes will gather on Sunday afternoon with flowers and tears to pay the last sad tribute of love and respect to a busy life. The nooks and hills of all this vicinity which he so loved are garlanded by nature in their most peaceful and hopeful moods. The beautiful waters of Rock River which inspired so many hours of his life with lasting pleasure seem to profoundly whisper ‘all is well.’ The bird caroling from the wayside tree seems sweetly but reverently to swell the universal anthem to the unseen Power which fixed the paths of the planets and ‘surveyed the streets of the ant-village.’ It is this Power which bids us look about us at the work Charles H. Hughes accomplished and from it gain an inspiration for the tasks of our hands yet to do.”

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### REINHART ASCHENBRENNER.

Bradford township numbers among its valued and representative residents and among its successful and enterprising native sons Reinhart Aschenbrenner, who is not only one of the most extensive landowners here and the holder of large landed interests in the west but who has also been for many years one of the great individual forces in the agricultural development and growth of Lee county. A spirit of enterprise and progress has actuated him





REINHART ASCHENBRENNER



throughout his life and this, guided and controlled by sound and practical judgment, has brought him to a high place among men of marked ability and substantial worth in this community. Mr. Aschenbrenner was born in Bradford township, this county, October 31, 1860, and is a son of Rev. John and Catherine (Reinhart) Aschenbrenner, natives of Germany. The mother came to America with her parents in 1845 and the father some years later. Their marriage occurred in Lee county and here the mother died July 20, 1900. The father makes his home on an orange farm near Los Angeles, California. He has reached the age of eighty-three years and only recently gave up the ministry, with which he had been connected during his active life. In this family were three children: Christian, who died July 28, 1913; Reinhart, of this review; and Andrew, a farmer of Bradford township.

Reinhart Aschenbrenner was reared at home and remained with his mother until he was thirty-two years of age, although at twenty-three he had purchased the farm which he now occupies. He moved upon this property in 1893 and he has since made his home there, carrying forward the work of improvement and development in a progressive and able way. His fields are in a high state of cultivation, his buildings are substantial and in good repair and everything about the place is in excellent condition. Mr. Aschenbrenner has from time to time bought more land and he is today one of the large holders of farming property in this part of Illinois. In partnership with his brother Andrew he owns sixteen hundred acres in Lee county, all but two hundred acres lying in Bradford township. They also have extensive land holdings in the west. Mr. Aschenbrenner has always made a specialty of raising horses, cattle and hogs and he still supervises his extensive stock-raising interests although he is living practically retired.

In 1892 Mr. Aschenbrenner was united in marriage to Miss Helen Muerner, a native of DuPage county, Illinois, and a daughter of Peter and Louisa (Knopf) Muerner, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Germany. The parents came to America in their early years and both died in this country. Mr. and Mrs. Aschenbrenner have become the parents of a daughter, Catherine E., who was born June 6, 1893. She has received a college education and is also a graduate in music. They have an adopted son, Lester Cecil.

Mr. Aschenbrenner is a member of Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, F. & A. M., and Amboy Chapter, No. 194, R. A. M. He belongs also to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Lee Center and

the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and for eleven years served in a capable and efficient manner as commissioner. He has spent his entire life in Bradford township and for the past twenty years has made his home upon the farm which is yet his place of residence. He has won success and prominence and because he has always followed the highest and most honorable standards has commanded and held the confidence and regard of all who are associated with him.

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### BENJAMIN ROBERTS.

Benjamin Roberts has been a resident of Lee county since 1868 and for the greater part of the time since the beginning of his active career he has been connected with agricultural interests here, owning and operating one hundred and thirty-seven and one-half acres of excellent land on sections 11 and 2, Wyoming township. He was born in Pavilion, Kendall county, Illinois, October 8, 1860, and is a son of H. H. and Elizabeth (Scott) Roberts. The father was a carpenter by trade, following this occupation in Pennsylvania for a number of years. In 1848 he came west to Illinois and settled in Kendall county, where he engaged in farming. In 1868 he moved to Lee county and bought the farm now owned by the subject of this review, paying forty dollars an acre for land now worth three hundred dollars per acre. He passed away in 1868 and was survived by his wife until 1905. Both are buried in the East Paw Paw cemetery. They were the parents of eleven children: Crawford, who died in the Union army during the Civil war; Annie, the wife of R. M. Morgan, a farmer in Oklahoma; Jennie, who married John Wolcott, a farmer in Kendall county, Illinois; Henry, who died in 1910 and is buried in the Wyoming cemetery; Emma, the wife of Joe Agler, who is engaged in farming near Wakefield, Nebraska; Etta, who became the wife of Henry Litz and died in Abilene, Kansas, in 1888; Lizzie, who married Mathew Goodyear, a farmer at Philip, South Dakota; Benjamin, of this review; George, a farmer in Wayne, Nebraska; Mary, the wife of James Britton, county judge of Wayne county, Nebraska; and Della, the wife of George Hicks, a clothier in Paw Paw, Illinois.

Benjamin Roberts acquired his education in the public schools of Paw Paw, laying aside his books at the age of seventeen. He



afterward assisted with the work of the farm until he was twenty-two and then became a clerk in a drug store. He was later for eight years connected with the clothing business in Paw Paw. He purchased the homestead at auction and has since carried forward the work of its improvement and development. He engages in mixed farming and under his able management his property has greatly increased in value, being now one of the finest farms in the township.

In Paw Paw, on the 16th of June, 1891, Mr. Roberts married Miss Pearl Carnahan, a daughter of John and Malvina (Cole) Carnahan, the former an engineer and farmer and one of the pioneers in Lee county. He now makes his home in Iowa, having survived his wife since 1907. She passed away when she was sixty years of age and is buried in Saybrook, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have two children: H. Louise, a graduate of the Paw Paw high school and now a student in Lake Forest College; and Benjamin E., attending high school.

Mr. Roberts is a member of the Baptist church, in which he has been deacon and Sunday School superintendent for fifteen years. He is connected fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served with credit and ability in various positions of trust and responsibility, having been alderman of Paw Paw for three terms, street commissioner for two terms and also school director. He is a man of many excellent traits of character which he evidences in all the relations of life, holding the esteem and respect of his neighbors as a progressive business man and upright citizen.

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### JOHN BUEL CRABTREE.

The business interests of Dixon find a worthy representative in John Buel Crabtree, secretary and treasurer of the Dixon Water Company since 1902. This is, however, but one phase of his activity, for he is a well known and representative member of the bar, his ability being continually manifest in his successful conduct of important and involved cases. Born in Dixon, he attended the public schools until graduated from the high school and then prepared for his chosen profession as a student in the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in

1902. He has since engaged in general law practice and has served as justice of the peace since 1909. He has never neglected to give thorough preparation before entering the courtroom, while an excellent presence, an earnest manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles make him an attractive and successful advocate. In the year in which he opened his law office he also entered into active connection with commercial interests as secretary and treasurer of the Dixon Water Company.

Mr. Crabtree is equally well known in other connections, being popular in fraternal circles and active in church work. He belongs to the Baptist church, of which he is a trustee, and he is a past exalted ruler of the Elks lodge. He likewise has membership with the Masonic fraternity and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and all entertain high consideration for him because of his integrity and impartiality in his profession, his enterprise in business connections and his public spirit in matters of citizenship.

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### ANDREW ASCHENBRENNER.

Agricultural and stock-raising interests of Lee county find a progressive and worthy representative in Andrew Aschenbrenner, who during the entire period of his active life has been engaged in farming in Bradford township. He is one of the extensive land-owners in this part of Illinois and his success in the conduct of his large interests has made him widely and favorably known in business circles. He was born in Bradford township, April 1, 1865, and is a son of John and Catherine (Reinhart) Aschenbrenner, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Andrew Aschenbrenner was reared in this township and acquired his education in the district schools and Dixon College. He aided in the operation of the homestead until he was twenty-five years of age and then began farming independently. He afterward moved upon a farm on section 29, Bradford township, and here he has since resided, giving his attention to general farming and stock-raising. He has large interests in farming property in this locality, owning in partnership with his brother, Reinhart Aschenbrenner, sixteen hundred acres in Lee county. In addition to this they have valuable holdings in western states.



ANDREW ASCHENBRENNER



On the 22d of February, 1890, Mr. Aschenbrenner was united in marriage to Miss Malinda S. Frost, who was born in Bradford township, February 11, 1867. She is a daughter of Captain William S. and Sophia E. (Shaw) Frost, the former a native of Maine, and the latter of Niles, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Aschenbrenner have three children: Della E., who was born June 11, 1893, and who is a talented musician; Marian E., born August 16, 1898; and Andrew Reinhart Frost, born June 4, 1903.

Mr. Aschenbrenner is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership in the Masonic lodge and chapter at Amboy and the Elks at Dixon, being affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for fifteen years as township clerk. He is now in the twentieth year of his able service as school director and the cause of education finds in him an earnest supporter. He was a member of the board of review for the year 1912. He is receiver for the Northern Illinois Electric Railway of which company he is also secretary. It is likewise interesting to note that he ran the first car over the line. In Bradford township, where he has spent his entire life, he is widely and favorably known, having gained recognition as a substantial farmer and a useful citizen.

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### CHARLES F. PRESTON.

One of the foremost and best known lawyers in Lee county is Charles F. Preston, who has practiced his profession in Paw Paw for thirty years, or since 1883. During that time he has been connected with much important litigation and has successfully established a reputation for high professional efficiency. He is equally at ease before the court or jury and sets forth his point in such a clear, concise and logical manner as to make it understandable not only for men of his profession but for practically every lay mind. He has, therefore, succeeded in winning a good many cases by presenting his views in a manner so clear that every member of the jury understood his point. Moreover, Mr. Preston enjoys not only high prestige as a lawyer but is well known in local public life, in which he has actively participated largely to the benefit of the general interests.



A native of Lee county, Charles F. Preston was born in Marion township, January 20, 1860, and is a son of James H. and Nancy A. (Maydole) Preston. The father came to Lee county in 1854, one of its pioneers, and at first settled near Amboy but later removed to Marion township. He held the office of county superintendent of schools for thirteen years and also was honored by his fellow citizens with election to a number of township offices. He died in 1896, deeply mourned by a large number of friends and neighbors, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife passed away ten years later, in 1906, and both are buried in the Prairie Repose cemetery at Amboy. The family is of Scotch-Irish extraction and has been settled in America since the days preceding the Revolutionary war.

Charles F. Preston received his primary education in the public schools of Lee county and the State Normal at Normal, Illinois, which latter institution he left at the age of twenty years. He then, deciding upon a legal career, studied law in the office of C. H. Wooster at Amboy and was admitted to the bar of the state of Illinois in May, 1882, beginning his practice in the following year at Paw Paw. He has ever since continued in this city and his reputation for fairness, ability and legal and judicial knowledge ranks him among the foremost lawyers of the county.

Mr. Preston married, at Paw Paw, Illinois, October 6, 1886, Miss Ida A. Hendershot, who passed away January 2, 1904, leaving three children: Frances H., a graduate of Lake Forest University; Hazel J., who graduated from Oberlin College, and who married Frank W. Bauer, November 1, 1913; and Rolland C., attending school. On July 25, 1906, Mr. Preston was again married, his second union being contracted at Ottawa, Illinois, with Miss Isabel Harter, of Sandwich, this state. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Harter.

As is often the case with men of the legal profession, Mr. Preston has taken an active interest in the political and public life of his region and for twenty-two years has served with most gratifying results as president of Paw Paw. For fifteen years he was clerk of the board of education and from 1885 to 1889 he served as postmaster. His political views coincide with the principles of the democratic party and he has ever given his loyal support to the men and measures of that organization. Along fraternal lines Mr. Preston is connected with the Masons, being a member of the blue lodge. He is one of the best known professional men of Lee county and highly esteemed and respected by his fellow lawyers as well as the general public. Ever interested in the growth and progress



of his village and district, he considers no effort on his part too great to promote the general welfare along intellectual, moral or material lines.

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### SAMUEL C. EELLS.

One of the most venerable and honored citizens of Dixon passed away when death called Samuel C. Eells on the 23d of September, 1913. He had passed the ninety-first milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in Walton, New York, March 19th, 1822. His father, Nathaniel G. Eells, was born in New Canaan, Connecticut, in 1794 and was a son of Sammel Eells, and descended from one of the old colonial families. He served in the War of 1812 and died in 1826. The mother of Mr. Eells bore the maiden name of Betty St. John and was born in Connecticut in 1800, a daughter of Cook and Polly (Seymour) St. John, who were also natives of the Charter Oak state and who became pioneer citizens of Delaware county, New York.

Samuel C. Eells was reared upon a farm in the Empire state and after mastering the branches of learning taught in the common schools he attended Delaware Academy, manifesting notable aptitude in his studies, so that when but sixteen years of age he began teaching, which profession he followed until the age of nineteen. He came west to Dixon at the request of John S. Coleman, who had removed to Illinois from Walton, New York, and who sent for Mr. Eells to join him at Rockford, where he had established and was conducting the Winnebago National Bank. Removing to Dixon, Mr. Eells was placed in charge of the banking business in Robertson, Eastman & Company. Later the name of the firm was Robertson, Eells & Company and in 1859 the bank became the property of Eells and Coleman, at which time Mr. Eells became a partner of his former fellow townsman, John S. Coleman. In 1865 the business was reorganized under the name of the Lee County National Bank with Joseph Crawford as president and Mr. Eells as cashier. The business was conducted under that name for twenty years, when in 1885 another reorganization was effected, bringing into existence the City National Bank with the same officers. Mr. Eells had been made president of the bank in 1881 and so served until the time of his demise. He established the safety deposit boxes in the bank in Dixon and introduced many progressive methods in keeping with the modern ideas of banking.

Moreover, he always recognized the fact that the bank is most worthy of support that most carefully safeguards the interests of its depositors. He ever tempered progressiveness with a safe conservatism and the bank was conducted along substantial lines leading to its present prosperity.

It was in 1854 that Mr. Eells was united in marriage to Miss Anna Moore, a native of New York and a daughter of Henry and Betsy A. (Farrington) Moore. They became the parents of three children: Caroline W.; Anna, the wife of Charles C. Upham, vice president and manager of the New York Steam Company, New York City; and Betsy Pauline.

In politics Mr. Eells was ever a stalwart republican and kept well informed concerning the vital questions and issues of the day, but did not seek or desire public office. He was a member of the Episcopal church and his religion found exemplification in all of his life's relations. He never deviated from the highest standards and in all of his business affairs followed constructive methods, never seeking success at the price of another's failure. He came to the west a young man, attacked his duties with the deepest enthusiasm and by the steps of an orderly progression steadily advanced until he was one of the chief figures in financial circles of the northwest.

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### OLIVER L. GEHANT.

Oliver L. Gehant, cashier of the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company at West Brooklyn, is a wide-awake, alert and enterprising young business man and the record which he has made adds further laurels to a family name that has long been a synonym for enterprise and reliability in the business circles of this part of the county. He was born in Viola township, Lee county, December 25, 1889, and is a son of Henry F. and Eliza (Py) Gehant, of whom mention is made on another page of this volume. He acquired his primary education in the schools of West Brooklyn, completing a high-school course at the age of fourteen years, and he has the honor of being its first graduate. He afterward continued his studies in the University of Notre Dame of South Bend, Indiana, from which he was also graduated, receiving a gold medal because of the record which he made in his school work being superior to that of any other member of the class of 1908.

Returning to his home, Oliver L. Gehant entered his father's bank as assistant cashier, thoroughly acquainting himself with every phase of the business and continuing to serve in his original capacity until 1912, when he was appointed to his present position as cashier. He is also a representative of various insurance companies and writes many policies every year, this contributing not a little to his success in a business way.

At Harmon, Illinois, on the 4th of October, 1911, Mr. Gehant was married to Miss Josephine Blackburn, a daughter of Peter and Nell (Morrissey) Blackburn, natives of Lee county, now residing in Harmon township. The father is a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant are members of the Catholic church and he is financial secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and in its support he edits and publishes the West Brooklyn News, an enterprising country journal.

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### JUDGE ROBERT H. SCOTT.

Dixon has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bar, and among those who have been factors in maintaining this reputation is Judge Robert H. Scott, who since 1902 has served upon the bench and will continue as county judge until 1914. Appointed to fill a vacancy, he has been three times elected to the office and his decisions indicate strong mentality, careful analysis, a thorough knowledge of the law and unbiased judgment. His history stands in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, for Judge Scott is a native son of Lee county, where he has been called to high judicial place and power. His birth occurred in Marion township in 1871, his parents being Robert and Ruth (Fairman) Scott, who were farming people of this part of the state. The usual experiences of the farm boy came to Judge Scott in his youth and his early education was acquired in the public schools. He afterward entered Dixon College and was graduated on the completion of the teacher's course. He also attended business college and the Dixon College of Elocution, and then, in preparation for a professional career, began a course in the Dixon College of Law, which in due time he completed by graduation. In January, 1896, he was admitted to the bar and at once entered upon active practice, which claimed his attention until August, 1902, when he was appointed to

fill a vacancy on the county bench. The following November he was elected to the office for a four years' term and again in 1906 and 1910, so that he will remain the incumbent until 1914. He is a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, of comprehensive general information and he possesses an analytical mind and a self control that enables him to put aside all personal feelings and prejudices and fully sustain the dignity, impartiality and equity of the office to which life, property, right and liberty must look for protection.

On the 16th of June, 1907, Judge Scott was united in marriage to Miss Carrie M. Clark, of Dixon, and they have become the parents of three children, Ione Ruth, Winifred Mildred and Gladys Beth. Judge Scott and his wife are prominently known in the leading social circles of the city and they are both connected with the Eastern Star, the Judge being a well known Mason. He likewise belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and has membership in the Hamilton Club of Chicago. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party and it has been upon that ticket that he has been called to public office. He served for five years as justice of the peace ere his election to the bench and for two years, from 1908 until 1910, he was president of the North Side school board. Few lawyers have made a more lasting impression upon the bar of the county both for legal ability of a high order and for the individuality of a personal character which impresses itself upon a community.

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### JOSEPH CRAWFORD.

The now flourishing city of Dixon, with its population of more than ten thousand, was scarcely a hamlet when Joseph Crawford took up his abode here. The site of the city was marked by a log cabin and ferry. From that time until his death Mr. Crawford was counted among the upbuilders of the city and he builded wisely and well. He was associated with public affairs as an office holder, with business interests as a surveyor and banker, and in the former connection he formed a very extensive acquaintance, so that he was one of the best known men of his part of the state. The success which attended him in his earlier years resulted in his giving his time and attention from 1875 until his death to the supervision of his private interests and to his duties as bank president.



*Jos. Crawford*







Joseph Crawford was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1811, a son of John and Catherine (Cassidy) Crawford. When he was eleven years of age the family removed to Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, where he acquired his education in the public schools and through his own efforts, learning many valuable lessons in the school of experience and through private reading and observation. In 1831 he began teaching, which profession he followed for four years. He also took up the study of surveying and became very proficient along that line. In April, 1835, he started for the far west, walking all the distance from Pennsylvania to Illinois. He first made his way to Chicago, thence to Dixon and afterward to Galena, but finally returned to Dixon Ferry, as the place was then known, and settled on a farm in the valley of the Rock river, between Dixon and Grand Detour. This was in May, 1835. It is difficult to realize the condition of things which then existed in that part of the state. This was only three years after the Black Hawk war and northern Illinois was largely an undeveloped and unsettled wilderness. Two years passed ere Chicago was incorporated as a city and many of the now thriving towns in the central and northern part of the state had not yet sprung into existence, while the fertile fields of the present day, were then undeveloped prairie land, not a furrow having been turned on many an acre. Mr. Crawford began surveying and followed that pursuit until early in the '80s. His skill and proficiency in that line brought him large success in his work. He made all the surveys for towns and villages from Rockford to Rock Island and in 1836 he was appointed by the governor to the position of deputy county surveyor for all the northwestern portion of Illinois. In the same year he was elected county surveyor of Ogle county, which then included Whiteside and Lee counties. It was not until 1839 that Lee county was set off from Ogle and organized as a separate county. In 1841 Mr. Crawford was elected one of the three county commissioners of the new county and at the time of its organization he was chosen county surveyor, which position he filled continuously for eighteen years. He was not only active in directing public interests of his section of the state but also became a factor in shaping the history of the commonwealth inasmuch as he was twice elected to the legislature, serving in 1849 and 1850 and again in 1853 and 1854. It was still the formative period in the history of the state and he was connected with much important legislation which was shaped at that period.

While thus filling public offices Mr. Crawford continued active in the management of his private business affairs. In connection with surveying he also acted as land agent and eventually became a dealer in real estate. He utilized his excellent opportunities to invest in property when it was to be had at a low figure and dealt principally in farm lands, which rose in value and brought to him splendid financial returns. He handled large property interests on his own account in both Illinois and Iowa and in 1865 he became a factor in the financial circles of the state as one of the organizers of the Lee County National Bank, which was afterward reorganized under the name of the City National Bank, Mr. Crawford continuing as its president up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 11th of August, 1891.

It was on the 16th of September, 1852, that Mr. Crawford was married to Huldah Bowman Culver and they became the parents of two children: Charles, deceased, and J. W., now of Dixon.

To say that Mr. Crawford was prominent scarcely expresses the place which he occupied in the public regard and in business and official connections. He was a man whose opinions carried great influence, for he was known to be thoroughly honest and, combined with his integrity, he possessed keen sagacity, which enabled him to thoroughly understand all the phases of public questions as well as of private business interests. Ere death called him Dixon had become a city of large and important interests and to the result he had contributed liberally through his business activities. He was, indeed, one of the promoters and builders of its greatness and its prosperity, and his name should stand high on the roll of Dixon's most honored residents.

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#### P. M. JAMES.

Peleg Miner James, practicing law at Amboy since 1882, came to Lee county in 1874 and taught that year in the Austin district in Sublette. He came to Amboy the next year as a teacher where, excepting for the year 1876-77 when he was superintendent of the El Paso, Illinois, schools, he has remained ever since.

He is a native of New England, being born in the town of Exeter, Rhode Island, July 14, 1850. His parents were Peleg W. and Sally A. (Lewis) James, both of Rhode Island. He traces his ancestry back to Allen James of Providence, then Thomas Allen

James of West Greenwich and his grandfather, William James of Exeter, all of Rhode Island. His father died January 22, 1888, and his mother September 1, 1893 and both are interred in Wood River cemetery, near Wyoming, Rhode Island. The James family is of English lineage and came to New England in an early day but at the present time are well scattered throughout the United States.

P. M. James received his secondary education in Providence Conference Seminary at East Greenwich, Rhode Island, the high school at Mendota, Illinois, at the University of Illinois and by private study. He was a teacher for many years,—was superintendent of schools at El Paso and Amboy and county superintendent of schools of Lee county, all in Illinois. He was admitted to the bar in 1881 and in 1882 he resigned his position in the Amboy schools and opened a law office in the Vaughan block in Amboy, where he has since remained. He is a director in the First National Bank of Amboy, president of the Sanitary Creamery Company, vice president of the Jones-Berry Lumber Company and of the Colson Clothing Company.

At Amboy, on December 25, 1878, Mr. James was married to Miss Lottie L. Vaughan, a daughter of C. D. and Louise M. (Balch) Vaughan of Amboy.

Mr. and Mrs. James are the parents of six children; Harold D., born April 12, 1881, who has the degrees of A. B., University of Illinois, and LL. B., Illinois College of Law, and who is practicing law at Freeport, Illinois; Leonard V., born June 9, 1884, who has the degrees B. S., M. S. and E. E., University of Illinois, and is at the present time a member of the faculty of the University, with the rank of associate in electrical engineering; Herbert M., born February 13, 1886, who has the degree B. C. S., New York University, and at the present time is engaged in audit work in New York city; Louise A., born April 22, 1890, who has the degree of A. B., University of Illinois, and is the wife of Chester H. Forsyth, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who is a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan; Edward A., born February 5, 1893, and at the present time a junior in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois; and Harriet L., born November 18, 1895, who is at the present time a freshman in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Illinois.

In politics, Mr. James is a republican; in church affiliation a Baptist and he is secretary of the board of education. He is past master of Illinois Central Lodge, No. 178, A. F. & A. M., past high priest of Amboy Chapter, No. 194, R. A. M., a member of Dixon

Commandery No. 21, K. T., and a member of Green River Lodge, No. 999, I. O. O. F.

Aside from his professional work, Mr. James has always taken a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the development and betterment of his adopted city. He has never aspired for social honors but can always be found among the workers in all efforts for improvement and higher standards in politics, morality, and education and he believes that thorough preparation is the best equipment of the young for the duties of life.

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### BELA RHEA HALDERMAN.

The career of Bela Rhea Halderman furnishes a splendid example of the value of energy and perseverance in the accomplishment of success, for although he has been in the printing business only five years he has risen in it from a comparatively humble position to be editor and proprietor of the Franklin Reporter. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, May 2, 1889, and is a son of Isaac and Jennie Olive (Orner) Halderman, the latter born at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, February 3, 1860. The father enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war in 1898 and never returned. The maternal branch of this family is of German-Swiss extraction and was founded in America by the grandparents of the subject of this review, Jonas B. and Susan (Baker) Orner, the latter a direct descendant of William Penn. Consequently Mr. Halderman of this review is a legal heir to the great Penn estate in Germany and Philadelphia, amounting to over one hundred and fifty million dollars. This estate remains unsettled, the case being now in litigation.

Bela R. Halderman acquired his education in the public schools of Franklin Grove, graduating from the high school June 4, 1907. He then secured a position as clerk in a clothing store in Franklin Grove. He afterward turned his attention to the printing business. In this he made rapid and steady advancement, rising from the position of compositor to that of assistant manager of the Franklin Reporter and becoming at the age of twenty-three, editor and proprietor of this paper. This responsible position he has since filled and his success in the management of the journal affords the best proof of his capabilities.



Mr. Halderman is a member of the Methodist church and is serving as secretary of the Sunday school. He is affiliated with Camp No. 45, M. W. A., and served as clerk of this organization for some time. He is also a member of the American Stars of Equity. His success at an early age demonstrates his force, ability and capacity, qualities which will undoubtedly carry him forward into important relations with journalistic interests in Lee county.

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### C. D. HUSSEY.

C. D. Hussey is a representative of one of the best known pioneer families of Lee county and one of the most progressive and enterprising native sons of Franklin Grove. For many years past he has been engaged in the lumber business here and by intelligent and careful management of his interests has surrounded himself with a gratifying measure of success. He was born September 4, 1852, and is a son of Amos and Jane F. (Holly) Hussey, the former a native of York county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Fredonia, New York. She was the first white child born in that community. The parents were married in Pennsylvania and in 1838 came to Illinois, making the journey in a covered wagon. They settled upon a tract of land adjoining Franklin Grove and this farm is now in the possession of the subject of this review. After the mother's death the father moved to Amboy and there lived retired until he passed away. Of the six children born to their union only one now survives.

C. D. Hussey remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-one and then moved to Amboy, where for a year and a half he worked in a hardware store. At the end of that time he secured a position as cashier in a bank, resigning this after one year in order to enter the employ of C. M. Butler. One year later he returned to Franklin Grove and in 1876 went into the lumber business in partnership with B. F. Dysert. They conducted this enterprise together until 1881, when Mr. Hussey bought his partner's stock, continuing alone for four years. He then sold the yard to his brother but five years later repurchased the enterprise, with which he has since been connected. He is a progressive, farsighted and resourceful business man and, understanding his own particular line of work in principle and detail, has gained a success which places him among the substantial and progressive men of the city.

He has valuable property holdings in this vicinity, owning ninety acres of the old homestead upon which his father located in 1838 and he has also a half interest in three hundred and twenty acres of land in South Dakota.

In 1883 Mr. Hussey was united in marriage to Miss Maud H. Secrist, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1856, a daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Nicademus) Secrist, natives of that state. The parents came to Lee county, Illinois, in the '50s and both passed away in Franklin Grove. Mr. and Mrs. Hussey have become the parents of seven children: Blaine C., a farmer of Lee county; Margaret, the wife of C. W. Trostle of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Amos J., now a resident of Long Beach, California; Donald C., in business with his father; Mary L., and Medrick, at home; and Jennie Y., deceased.

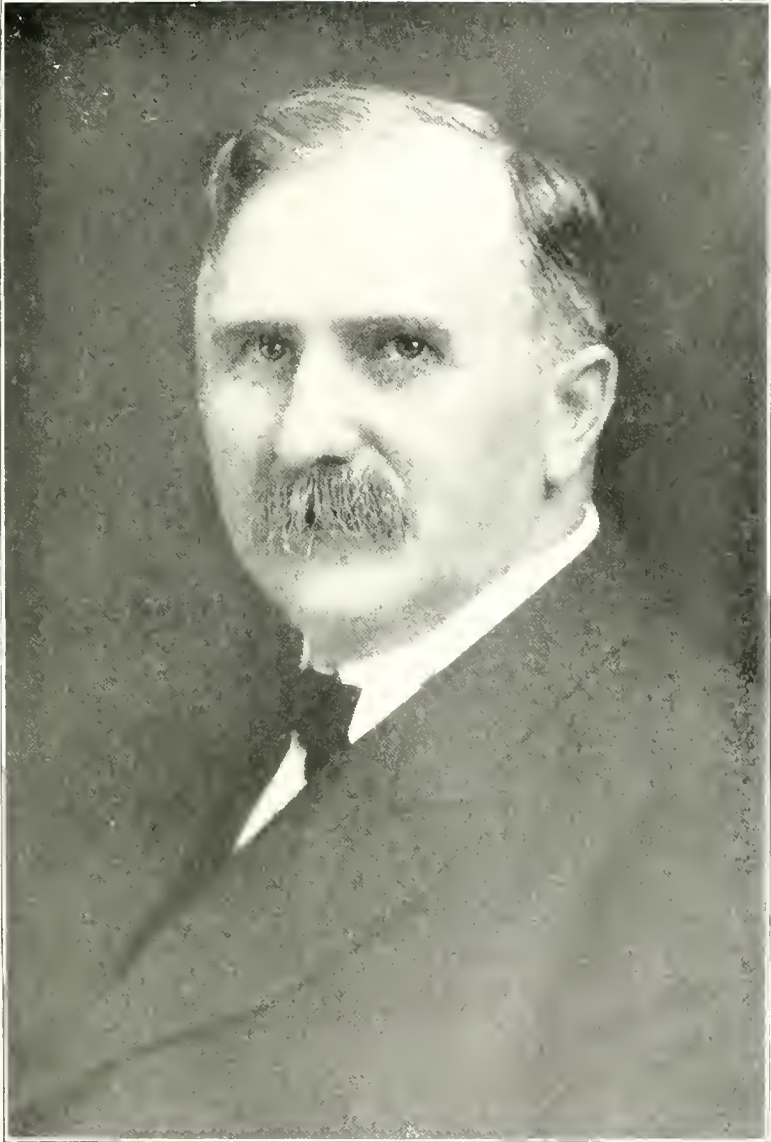
Mr. Hussey gives his political allegiance to the republican party, has served for five years as supervisor and is now school trustee. He has proven a capable and conscientious public official and in this and all other relations of life has adhered to high ideals, so that he commands and holds the esteem and confidence of his associates and friends.

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### JUDGE RICHARD S. FARRAND.

Judge Richard S. Farrand is now serving for the third term as circuit court judge, following five terms' service as judge of the county court of Lee county, and the history of the bench of this section of the state contains the record of no man who has been more loyal to duty, honorable in purpose, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation. Judge Farrand was born in Allen county, Indiana, October 1, 1852, and is a son of R. S. and Delilah (Cook) Farrand, who were natives of Oneida county, New York, and at an early day became residents of Indiana, settling there at a pioneer epoch in its history. Their son, Richard, left home when but eleven years of age to earn his own livelihood, working as a farm hand and in other humble capacities, but actuated at all times with the laudable ambition of preparing for and entering upon better things. When fifteen years of age he arrived in Lee county, where he worked and also attended school. Diligence and close application enabled him not only to master his studies but also to qualify for teaching, which profession he followed with success for seven





JUDGE RICHARD S. FARRAND



years. His worth and ability became recognized and when twenty-five years of age he was made deputy sheriff of Lee county. While acting in that capacity there developed in him an interest in the profession of law and resolving to enter upon its practice, he began studying under the direction of A. C. Bardwell. It has been said that when in the matter of life the city boy crosses swords with the country lad, the odds are against him. The early rising, the daily tasks, and the economical habits of the country boy prepare him for the struggle that must precede ascendancy. Such had been the training of Judge Farrand, who when he entered upon his studies was found ready to apply himself with that diligence and determination that must constitute the source of success with the law student. That his good qualities were recognized by his preceptor was indicated in the fact that he was admitted into partnership following his admission to the bar in 1880. The firm of Bardwell & Farrand then existed until 1882, at which time the junior partner was elected judge of the county court for a term of four years.

Public indorsement of his service came in a reelection in 1886 and again in 1890, 1894 and 1898, and he retired from the office of county judge in 1902 mid the high encomiums of those best qualified to comment upon his service. In July, 1902, he was elected judge of the circuit court to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Crabtree; was reelected in 1903 for a term of six years and again in 1909 was elected for a six years' term, so that he is now upon the bench.

In 1873 Judge Farrand was married to Miss C. J. Marsh and they have one living son, Ernest W., while another son, Wilbur A., died at the age of ten years. Judge Farrand is a Royal Arch Mason, thoroughly in sympathy with the teachings and principles of the craft. In politics he has always been a republican and aside from strict professional paths has filled office, having been elected mayor of Dixon. Duty and honor have ever been his watchwords and justice one of his strong characteristics. The legal profession demands not only a high order of ability but a rare combination of talent, learning, tact, patience and industry. The successful lawyer and a competent judge must be a man of well balanced intellect thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, of comprehensive general information, possessed of an analytical mind and a self-control that will enable him to lose his individuality, his personal feelings, his prejudices and his peculiarities of disposition in the dignity, impartiality and equity of the office, to which life,

property, right and liberty must look for protection. Possessing these qualities Judge Farrand justly merits the high honor which has been conferred upon him by his election to the circuit bench.

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### WARREN CONRAD DURKES.

The name of Warren Conrad Durkes is inseparably interwoven with the records of financial activity in Dixon and this part of the state. For twelve years he was cashier of the City National Bank, is now its president and is likewise associated with a number of other banking concerns and business enterprises. His entire career has been characterized by orderly progression and each forward step has brought him a broader outlook and wider opportunities until he is now prominently connected with interests and enterprises having to do with the substantial upbuilding and progress of this section of the state. He was born at Franklin Grove, Illinois, May 20, 1868, and is a son of Conrad and Mary (Jones) Durkes. While spending his youthful days under the parental roof he acquired a public-school education and later entered a business college of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1886. He then entered his father's bank at Franklin Grove in a clerical capacity and upon its reorganization under the name of the Franklin Grove Bank in 1889 he was made cashier. His identification therewith brought him intimate and comprehensive knowledge of every phase of the banking business and he remained in successful control of that institution until 1901, when he came to Dixon and entered upon active relations with the City National Bank as its cashier, in which capacity he served until 1913 when he was elected president. He is still connected with the Franklin Grove Bank as vice president and he is a director of the First National Bank of Erie, Illinois, a director and treasurer of the Dixon Home Telephone Company, a director of many others which have developed telephone connections throughout this part of the state, giving to the public excellent service, and a director of the Dixon Loan and Building Association. Mr. Durkes recognized the possibilities in these directions and his cooperation has been a feature in carrying the enterprises forward to successful completion.

In 1893 Mr. Durkes was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Canterbury, of Chicago, and they have become the parents of two

daughters, Leona and Katherine. Mr. Durkes is a member of the Elks and Knights of Pythias lodges and is a prominent Mason, having attained the Knight Templar degree in the Dixon Commandery, while he is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. His geniality and unfeigned cordiality have made him popular, while his tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose and genius for devising the right thing at the right time have gained him a prominent place among the foremost business men of Lee county.

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### PHILIP NIEBERGALL.

Since 1884 Philip Niebergall has lived upon his farm of two hundred and sixty-three acres on sections 22 and 15, Wyoming township, and he has made this one of the finest agricultural properties in this locality. He was born in Linn county, Iowa, June 5, 1855, and is a son of John and Catherine (Trautwein) Niebergall, the former of whom came from Germany about the year 1840 and settled in Wisconsin, where he worked as a monthly laborer. He afterward moved to Iowa and in 1866 went to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he resided until his death, which occurred April 17, 1908. His wife survives him and makes her home in Mendota, Illinois.

Philip Niebergall acquired his education in the public schools of Iowa and LaSalle county, Illinois, attending until he was twenty-one years of age. During this time, however, he spent only a short period in each year in school, for during the summer months he assisted his father with the work of the farm, remaining at home until almost thirty years of age. He then married and came to Lee county, where he purchased his present property, whereon he has since carried on the work of improvement and cultivation along progressive and practical lines. He has erected excellent buildings upon the place, including a comfortable residence, barns and sheds, and has neglected nothing which would add to the attractive appearance or the value of the place. In addition to general farming he is also interested in stock-raising, every year shipping stock to the eastern markets.

In Paw Paw, Illinois, on the 15th of April, 1885, Mr. Niebergall was united in marriage to Miss Elva Uleine, a daughter of S. H. and Gertrude (Sharpe) Uleine, the former a pioneer farmer of Lee county. The father passed away in 1910 and is buried in Wyoming



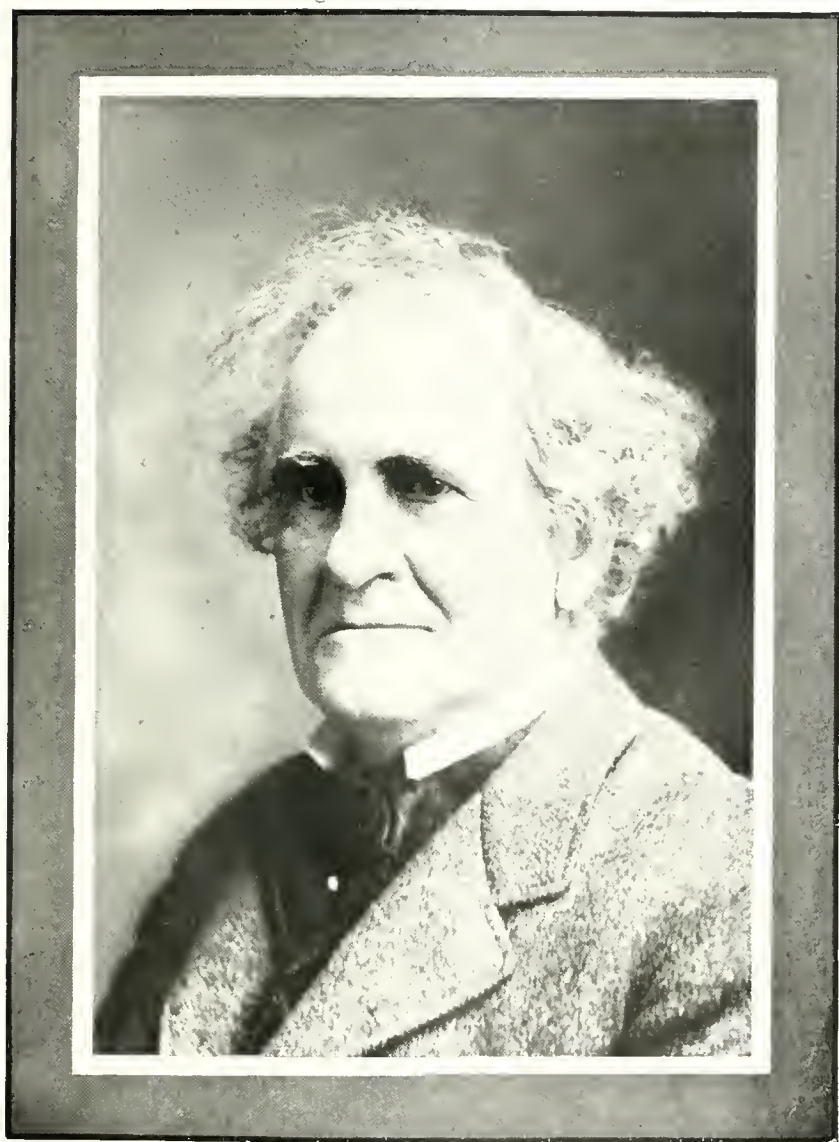
cemetery. His wife survives him and makes her home with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Niebergall have three sons: Glenn, a farmer in DeKalb county, this state; and Wayne and Floyd, who are assisting their father. Two are married and the eldest son has one child, Gladys.

Mr. Niebergall is a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a progressive republican in his political beliefs. He has served with credit and ability as road commissioner and as a member of the committee of three which investigated the affairs of the Independent Harvester Company. He is a man of broad interests and progressive public spirit, cooperating heartily in all movements for the advancement and betterment of the community. He is highly respected by all who know him as a successful and able business man and a valued citizen who is considerate of the general welfare as well as active in promoting his personal success.

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### BENJAMIN F. SHAW.

The record of Benjamin F. Shaw, of Dixon, honors the name of journalism. He entered upon newspaper publication at a period when the purpose of journalism had its educational features in addition to the dissemination of general and local news and had not been tinged with that commercial spirit which seeks through sensationalism to stimulate the curiosity of the public without regard to wrong impressions which, like tares, grow up and choke out the good seed. He never deviated from the high principles which he set up or lowered his standards because he considered it expedient or profitable to do so. At the time of his death he was perhaps the Nestor of the Illinois journalists, having for many years been editor and proprietor of Dixon's oldest newspaper. He was born in Waverly, New York, March 31, 1831, and passed away September 18, 1909. His ancestry was traced back to William Bradford, who kept the log of the Mayflower and later became the first governor of Plymouth Colony. His grandmother on the paternal side was the last surviving of those who suffered from the Wyoming massacre of 1778, her father and two brothers having been killed in the battle which preceded the massacre. His mother's father, Major Zethon Flower, was a soldier of the Revolution and one of the last survivors on the pension



BENJAMIN F. SHAW



roll of that war, dying at the advanced age of ninety-six. His parents, Alanson B. and Philomela (Flower) Shaw, were natives of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and died when their son Benjamin was a young lad. His brother, Alonzo Shaw, removed westward to Tipton, Iowa, and in 1841 returned to the east for his father's family, then living at Towanda, Pennsylvania, so that Benjamin F. Shaw spent a portion of his youth upon the frontier region, where the work of civilization and progress seemed scarcely begun. He was not yet fourteen years of age when he began carrying the mail in a section of country adjoining Tipton—a section which was then a wilderness infested with Indians and robbers. The following year—1845—he went to Rock Island, where he began learning the printer's trade, which he followed continuously for about fourteen years. Within that time, or in 1851, he removed to Dixon. The first paper published in that city was the Dixon Telegraph and Lee County Herald, established on the 1st of May, 1851. Mr. Shaw secured employment in the office and on the 21st of January, 1852, he became manager of the paper. On the 30th of April, 1854, he purchased the Telegraph and at a later period the Transcript, consolidating the two papers under the former name. Various changes occurred in newspaper ownership in Dixon, but through a long period Mr. Shaw remained owner and editor of the Telegraph. In 1859, however, attracted by the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, he went to Colorado. He did not meet with the success he anticipated in the mines there and returned to Illinois. He remained for but four months in Colorado and while there had to resort to his trade and set type on the Rocky Mountain News. In April, 1860, he purchased the Amboy (Ill.) Times, of which he remained editor until January 6, 1870. In 1871 Mr. Shaw again became sole proprietor of the Telegraph and remained at its head until his death. In November, 1883, he extended the scope of his business by the establishment of a daily which he called the Evening Telegraph and which has proved one of the most successful papers of the state outside of Chicago. In 1868 he was Washington correspondent for the Chicago Evening Journal, but through the greater part of his life his energies were concentrated on the publication of the Telegraph in his weekly and daily editions, and as the years passed on its circulation and its advertising patronage increased. Improvements were added to the plant in keeping with modern newspaper publication and the office was splendidly equipped

with all the accessories necessary to issuing a high-class paper, presenting the most attractive forms of the printer's art.

Through all the years Mr. Shaw was an ardent supporter of the republican party and took just pride in the fact that he had been one of its organizers. In February, 1856, he was an active participant in the meeting, held in Decatur, of Illinois editors who were opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. The political questions and the issues of the day were earnestly discussed and the editors' meeting resulted in calling a convention to meet in Bloomington in June of the same year. It was at the latter meeting that the republican party had its real organization and nominated the first state ticket. On that occasion Mr. Shaw was in consultation with Abraham Lincoln as a member of the committee on resolutions. In his capacity of journalist he was brought into contact with many of the distinguished men of that and later periods and had personal acquaintance with the prominent political statesmen and leaders of Illinois. Few men not active in politics and seeking the rewards of office have had more intimate, accurate and comprehensive knowledge of the political situation and the questions of the day. Mr. Shaw held some local offices but he regarded journalism as his profession and his real life work. In 1859 he was elected clerk of the circuit court and was reelected to that position, his term expiring in 1868. The following year he was connected with the internal revenue department and was appointed by the government to locate the asylum for the insane at Elgin. In 1876 he was appointed state canal commissioner and served for six years as one of the three commissioners who had charge of the Illinois and Michigan canal and the Rock River improvement work. He acted as secretary of the first meeting held in the interests of the Hennepin canal. In 1891, without his solicitation, he was appointed postmaster of Dixon and served for the full term of four years. In 1899 he was again called to that office and by reappointment served until his death, filling the position altogether for twenty-two years. He was interested in all matters of public progress and improvement, and from the time of its organization until his death was president of the O. B. Dodge public library. Progressive public measures which he deemed practicable always received not only his personal indorsement but the support of his paper, and it was well known that the Dixon Telegraph was at all times the champion of advancement and improvement. He stood as a high type of public-spirited citizenship, and



never weighed a question of civic or personal honor in the scale of policy.

Mr. Shaw was united in marriage to Miss Annie E. Eustace, a sister of Judge John V. Eustace and a daughter of the Rev. Thomas Eustace, a Presbyterian clergyman, who was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and who married Fannie Ohmstead. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw had three sons: Fred, of Denver, Colorado; Eustace, deceased, who for some years was his father's associate in business; and Dr. Lloyd L. Shaw. Mrs. Shaw passed away February 6, 1905, and four and one-half years later Benjamin F. Shaw departed this life. He was a member of the Elks lodge and of the Dixon Club. There was, perhaps, in Dixon no man more widely known and none who had labored more loyally for the interests of the city and state.

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#### A. J. LAUER.

A. J. Lauer has for the past two decades been successfully identified with business interests of Sublette as an implement dealer and also as the proprietor of a plumbing establishment. Lee county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Sublette township in 1857. His parents, Andrew and Katherine (Strubel) Lauer, are both deceased and lie buried at Sublette, Illinois. The father passed away in 1898, while the mother died September 15, 1876.

In the acquirement of an education A. J. Lauer attended school in Sublette until twelve years of age and subsequently assisted his father in the operation of the home farm for eleven years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a tract of land and devoted his attention to its cultivation until 1893, when he embarked in the plumbing and implement business at Sublette. He has successfully conducted this establishment throughout the intervening twenty years and is widely recognized as one of the prosperous, enterprising and representative citizens of the community.

On the 30th of October, 1883, in Sublette, Mr. Lauer was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Hildmann, a daughter of Conrad and Anna (Neis) Hildmann, who are deceased and lie buried in Sublette. Mr. and Mrs. Lauer have one child, Amor, who assists his father in the conduct of his business. The family residence was erected by our subject.

Mr. Lauer is a democrat in politics and has served in the capacity of county assessor for about fifteen years, making a highly creditable and commendable record in that connection. He is a Catholic in religious faith and a devout communicant of the church. He is a man of exemplary habits, strict integrity and strong personality and is well known in the county where his entire life has been spent, holding the high esteem of all who have business and social relations with him.

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### WILLIAM V. JONES.

One of the leading business enterprises of Amboy is the Jones Berry Lumber Company, of which William V. Jones is the president. He has conducted business in this connection since March 1, 1909, and the patronage of the firm has constantly increased as a result of enterprising and progressive methods on the part of Mr. Jones and his associates. He was born near Woodbridge, New Jersey, October 7, 1842, and was a lad of twelve years when he arrived in Lee county. His parents were J. A. and Margaret (Sleight) Jones. The family is of Welsh origin and was founded in America by the great grandfather of our subject. The grandfather served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The father, J. A. Jones, was one of the early settlers of Bradford township and continued a resident of Lee county until 1903, when he passed away at the age of eighty-nine years. His wife died in 1885 and they are both laid to rest in Lee Center cemetery.

In the Bradford district school William V. Jones began his education and after putting aside his text-books he assisted his father in the work of the farm. He was actively identified with agricultural pursuits for forty-five years and still owns the old homestead on which he has made various substantial improvements. Turning from agricultural to commercial interests he became organizer of the lumber company of which he is the president. He is director of the Farmer's Insurance Company of Bradford, Lee county, to which position he was called in 1878 and has served as president for the past eight years. He is likewise a director of the First National Bank, but concentrates his energies chiefly upon the lumber business in which connection he has developed an important enterprise. The firm carries a large stock

of lumber and building material and owing to reasonable prices and honorable methods its sales are constantly increasing.

In Bradford township on the 15th of January, 1867, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Viola Stark, a daughter of E. W. and Almeda (Camp) Stark. In both the paternal and maternal lines Mrs. Jones is descended from old families of the county, both the Starks and Camps arriving in the early '30s. They were worthy respected farming people. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have three children: Augusta, the wife of Dr. Everett of DeKalb; William E., who is farming on the old homestead; and Margaret, the wife of D. L. Berry.

Mr. Jones is a republican and has filled the office of drainage commissioner, but while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, he does not care to occupy political positions to any extent. In Masonry he has attained the Royal Arch degree and he belongs also to the Odd Fellows Lodge and the Modern Woodmen Camp. Almost his entire life has been passed in this county and he has been a witness of its growth and development for six decades. Throughout the entire period he has made a record that is commendable and his circle of friends is today an extensive one.

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### ALFRED P. ARMINGTON.

Alfred P. Armington, identified with the banking business since 1891, has been cashier of the Dixon National Bank since 1907 and in this connection his business record is most creditable. He is a popular official, who at the same time carefully safeguards the interests of the institution which he represents. He has made a close study of the business and upon the substantial qualities of industry, close application and laudable ambition has builded his success. A Canadian, he was born in Dunham, in the province of Quebec, and at six years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to Boston, Massachusetts, where he had the benefit of instruction in the excellent public schools of that city. He started in the business world in connection with the flour trade and in 1887 came west to Dixon, where he entered the Dixon Milling Company as secretary and treasurer. Four years were devoted successfully to the management and control of that business and then he turned from commercial to financial pursuits, entering the Dixon National Bank as bookkeeper in 1891. Promotion followed

in recognition of his ability and fidelity. He was made assistant cashier and in 1907 was chosen cashier, which office he has since filled in a manner most creditable and satisfactory to both stockholders and depositors. He is also treasurer of the Dixon Loan & Building Association and is recognized as a strong, forceful and resourceful business man, ready to meet emergencies and quickly recognizing the possibilities and opportunities of any business situation.

In 1891 Mr. Armington was united in marriage to Miss Gracia E. Laing, a native of Dixon, and unto them have been born two children, Dorothy M. and Clara G. Mr. Armington is a Mason and also an Elk and is popular in both organizations. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, showing that he is not neglectful of the higher, holier duties of life even in the press of important business interests which are constantly growing in extent. His friends throughout Lee county—and they are many—speak of him in terms of the highest regard.

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#### EUSTACE EDWARD SHAW.

An honored son of an honored sire and the associate of his father in business for many years as assistant managing editor of the Dixon Telegraph, Eustace Edward Shaw was born in the city of Dixon, March 27, 1857, his parents being Benjamin F. and Annie E. (Eustace) Shaw. At the usual age he became a public-school pupil and after mastering the work of the grades in his native city he entered the Rock River Seminary, which at that time stood on the beautiful site of Bluff Park, where for many years was the Shaw home. He had not yet attained his majority when in 1877 he went to Sumner county, Kansas, where he purchased a tract of land and developed an excellent farm. After continuing its cultivation for a few years, however, he sold his property in the Sunflower state and returned to his native city. In 1882, however, he removed to St. Louis, where he continued his residence for five years, receiving additional training in the printing business, which he had formerly learned and which he mastered with completeness, acquainting himself with every phase of the business. When he again went to Dixon in 1887 he joined his father, who was owner and editor of the Telegraph, became junior member of the company and a writer on



EUSTACE E. SHAW





the editorial staff. His connection with the paper continued from that time until his demise, and he became its managing editor and business manager. The policy which he followed was in keeping with the high standards which had ever been maintained by the paper. One of his contemporaries in the newspaper publication said: "In the death of Eustace E. Shaw the field of journalism has lost a brilliant writer and Dixon a good, honest American citizen." Another said: "He stood well with the members of the newspaper fraternity. The public in this vicinity feel that a good man has fallen from the ranks." Still another wrote: "We learned to respect him as a man, and although a rival in the journalistic field, to regard him as a personal friend. His cheerful disposition, his unfailing courtesy and his genial salutations are kindly remembered. As a journalist he was fair and honest; he never wilfully wounded any man's feelings, although maintaining always an editor's right to criticize where he deemed criticism necessary. His familiar form and cheerful greeting will be sadly missed in the little city he loved so well, and where most of his useful life had been spent. He has passed over to the majority, but his name and character were unsullied. He will be sincerely mourned. He has left us in the prime of life, but

"That life is long which  
Answers life's great end."—Swarts."

All this is indicative of the record and standing of Mr. Shaw among those with whom he was associated in personal and business relations. His best traits of character were reserved for his own fireside and in his home he was a devoted husband and father. He was married on May 22, 1889, to Miss Mabel Smith, of Darlington, Wisconsin, and they became the parents of three sons, George B., Benjamin T. and Robert, who with the mother survive.

The death of E. E. Shaw occurred in 1902. In the memorial since his demise it was said: "Mr. Shaw was a man whose domestic life was an ideal one; but while his choicest joy was found among the loved ones of his own fireside, he was far from insensible to the claims of society and friends. Of his gentlemanly social qualities all who knew him can testify. No man in our midst enjoyed a larger circle of friends than did he; and no man certainly was more worthy of the love so spontaneously accorded him. Ever kindly considerate, not only for those of his own

household, or his personal friends, but for the youngest and most irresponsible of those in his employ, and of all with whom he was brought into associaton, his loss will be most keenly and widely felt. He was the embodiment of unselfish devotion to his parents and family, and his unswerving loyalty to his friends, through all emergencies, bound him to them with ties stronger than steel. He took the keenest delight in granting a favor, even to a casual acquaintance, and seemed scarcely to possess the ability to say no to a request. He doubtless made some enemies—as a man outspoken for the right, as he sees it, does do; but no man could accuse him of acting deceitfully, for he was a man of the keenest conscientiousness and the soul of honor. Surely a good man has gone from our midst and the community is sadly the loser.” Such is a splendid tribute to a man honored and esteemed by all who knew him and, most of all, where he was best known.

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### HENRY S. DIXON.

Henry S. Dixon is practicing law in the city of Dixon under the firm style of Dixon & Dixon. He is a son of Sherwood and Melissa G. (Mead) Dixon, the former a son of James P. Dixon and the grandson of John Dixon.

Henry S. Dixon was born in the city which is still his home, August 28, 1870, and was educated in the south side public schools, being graduated therefrom in June, 1888. Immediately after his graduation he was employed in the factory of C. M. Henderson & Company as a shoe cutter for more than a year. Subsequently he attended the Northwestern University and the Kent College of Law at Chicago, being graduated from the latter with the class of 1893. In 1894 and a part of 1895 he was employed in the United States attorney's office at Chicago. He returned to Dixon in the latter year to become a partner of S. H. Bethea, with whom he retained this connection until 1898. He then engaged in practice alone until 1899, when he became a partner of George C. Dixon under the firm style of Dixon & Dixon.

On the 24th of July, 1895, in Chicago, Mr. Dixon was united in marriage to Miss Margaret C. Casey, of that city, and they are the parents of four children: Sherwood, Marion E., Jerome F. and Robert A.

Mr. Dixon has held the following positions: alderman of the first ward in 1898-99; mayor of Dixon in 1903-04; and referee in bankruptcy for the northern district of Illinois from 1899 to the present. He was a member of the North Dixon board of education for two terms of three years each and in politics he has always been a democrat.

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### HIRAM A. BROOKS.

Concentrating his energies upon the general practice of law, Hiram A. Brooks has advanced step by step in his profession until his position is an enviable one. His clientele is large and important and his work in the courts is recognized as of solid worth. He has comprehensive knowledge of the principles of law and is seldom, if ever, at fault in the application of a legal principle, owing to the thoroughness and care with which he prepares his cases. A native of Lee county, Mr. Brooks was born in Marion township, in September, 1868, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Susan O. (Morris) Brooks, the former a farmer by occupation, devoting his entire life to that pursuit.

The early experiences of Hiram A. Brooks were such as usually fall to the lot of farm lads. His preliminary education was obtained in the public schools and later he entered Dixon College, then the Northern Illinois Normal School, in which he pursued his more specifically literary course and was graduated with the class of 1890. Upon this as a foundation he began his law course, studying under William Barge of Dixon, and after thorough preliminary reading was admitted to the bar in 1893. The following year he took up the practice of law and has since been constantly active in his profession. For two years he served as city attorney, but almost the entire time has been given to private practice, which constantly becomes more and more important in character and greater in volume. His ability to solve intricate law problems is now widely recognized. His mind is analytical, logical and inductive. With a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of law he combines a familiarity with statutory law and a sober, clear judgment which makes him not only a formidable adversary in the courts but also a wise and safe counselor. At no time has his reading ever been confined to the limitation of the questions at issue. It has gone beyond and com-

passed every contingency and provided not only for the expected but also for the unexpected, which happens in the courts quite as frequently as out of them. He is, therefore, remarkable among lawyers for the wide research and provident care with which he prepares his cases.

In 1893 Mr. Brooks was united in marriage to Miss Mary S. Fisher, and unto them was born a son, Byron A. Brooks. Following the death of the mother Mr. Brooks wedded Lottie Baldwin of Dixon. They are well known socially here and the hospitality of their home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mr. Brooks is prominent in the local circles of Odd Fellows, being a past noble grand of the Dixon lodge, and both he and his wife are members of the Peoples church.

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### J. B. FARVER.

J. B. Farver is one of the representative and valued citizens of Ashton, where for the past nineteen years he has successfully engaged in the blacksmith business. During that time he has also been active in public affairs and has made a most commendable record in positions of public trust and responsibility. He was born in Pennsylvania, November 1, 1869, and is a son of T. W. and Sarah M. Farver, also natives of that state. The parents came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1875, locating in Franklin Grove. To their union were born seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the third in order of birth.

J. B. Farver remained at home until he was twenty years of age and then learned the blacksmith trade, which he has followed continuously since that time. For the past nineteen years he has been in business in Ashton, where he has become recognized as a man of unusual integrity and worth. He controls a large and representative patronage, for his work is of high quality and his business methods beyond question.

In 1893 Mr. Farver was united in marriage to Miss Emma S. Stoudt, a daughter of Alkana and Polly (Ruth) Stoudt, natives of Pennsylvania. The parents were residents of Illinois for many years and are now residents of Nachusa. Mr. and Mrs. Farver have become the parents of two children: Ruth M., and Reeta F., students in high school. The family occupy an attractive residence in Ashton and are well known in social circles of the community.



The parents are members of the Eastern Star and Mr. Farver is connected also with Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M., and has filled almost all of the offices in the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has always been active in public affairs. For four years he served as mayor of Ashton and his administration was constructive, businesslike and progressive, characterized by the accomplishment of a great deal of important work. Mr. Farver is a man of high character, industrious and enterprising and his honesty and uprightness have always merited him the confidence and respect of his neighbors.

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### JOHN B. WERREN, M. D.

Dr. John B. Werren, engaged in the practice of medicine at Dixon since 1909, was born in Franklin county, Tennessee, on the 11th of November, 1871, and is a son of John B. and Susan (Zwahlen) Werren, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. They left the land of the Alps in 1868 to come to the United States and after crossing the Atlantic made their way into the interior of the country. For some years they were residents of Tennessee and in 1896 removed northward to Lake Forest, Illinois. The mother is now deceased, but the father is still living at Lake Forest, where he is engaged in the grocery business.

At the usual age Dr. Werren entered the public schools and therein continued his studies until he had completed the course. He afterward became a student in the Normal School at Winchester Tennessee, and at a later date attended the Lake Forest Academy. His professional course was pursued in the Bennett Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1900. He then located for practice at Orland, Illinois, where he remained for a year, and next went to Grand Detour, Illinois, where he continued until 1909. That year witnessed his arrival in Dixon, where he has since engaged in general practice. He is a member of the Lee County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

In October, 1900, Dr. Werren was united in marriage to Miss Cora E. Schumaker, of Chicago. He is a republican in politics and manifests a citizen's interest in the questions of the day but has had neither time nor inclination for public office. He is well known in

fraternal circles, being a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Elks and the Moose. He has not yet attained the prime of life but already has made for himself a gratifying place in professional ranks and will undoubtedly advance still farther in the future.

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### ROBERT POGUE.

Commercial activities in Paw Paw and Lee county are well represented by Robert Pogue, one of the foremost lumber and coal dealers in this district and in that connection a member of Pogue Brothers Lumber Company, who own coal and lumber yards not only at Paw Paw but also at Hinckley and Waterman, Illinois. Mr. Pogue has been a resident of Pawpaw since 1894 and has not only become one of the foremost business men of the town but has actively participated in the promotion of her public interests and now serves as president of the board of trustees. A native of Illinois, he was born in Oswego, Kendall county, January 9, 1862. His parents were M. J. and Sarah E. (Gibson) Pogue. The father was a pioneer farmer of Kendall county, going thither from Ohio by making his way across the prairies in a wagon. Discontinuing his farming operations, he subsequently established himself in the lumber business, being successful along that line for thirty years. He at first established a lumber and coal yard in Oswego and as his resources increased acquired one at Hinckley, Illinois, and subsequently bought another at Waterman and in 1894 the one which is now conducted by the firm at Paw Paw. The original name of the concern was M. J. Pogue & Sons, but in 1900 this style was changed to that of the Pogue Brothers Lumber Company. They still own coal and lumber yards at the various above mentioned cities with the exception of that at Oswego, of which they have disposed. Mr. Pogue has done much toward promoting and extending the business and his executive ability and progressive methods have resulted in a most gratifying measure of success.

The marriage of Robert Pogue to Miss E. Maud Hunt was celebrated at Oswego, Illinois, on October 22, 1890. She is a daughter of J. B. and Frances (Porter) Hunt, the former a retired business man. Mr. and Mrs. Pogue have one son, Kenneth H. Mr. Pogue is a devout member of the Presbyterian church, serving as an elder, and fraternally is a blue lodge Mason. He has always taken an active interest in promoting the growth of Paw Paw and

as president of the board of trustees of the town has done much toward advancement. His policies are modern and progressive and he brings as vigorous an interest to his public duties as he exhibits in the pursuit of his private business affairs. He enjoys in full measure the confidence of the general public, which is evident from the position of trust to which he has been elected, and well merits that confidence on account of the considerate treatment which he gives to all matters coming before him in his public capacity.

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### ISAAC BRYAN COUNTRYMAN.

Honored and respected by all, there is no man who occupies a more enviable position in commercial and financial circles in Lee county than Isaac Bryan Countryman, whose business has ever balanced up with the principles of truth and honor. The extent and importance of his interests have made him a strong center in the community in which he moves. He figured for many years as the active head of Dixon's leading mercantile establishment and at the present writing stands at the head of one of its strongest financial institutions, the Union State Bank, of which he has been president since its organization. He was born in Herkimer county, New York, a son of John I. and Nancy (Failing) Countryman, who were farming people of the Empire state and were of German descent, representing one of the old Dutch families of the Mohawk valley. The son, Isaac B. Countryman, acquired his early education in the public schools and afterward attended the Fairfield Seminary. In early manhood he sought the opportunities of the middle west, making his way to Rochelle, Illinois, where he engaged in clerking for two years. He came to Dixon in 1868 and engaged in clerking in a general store, his experience in that connection giving him training that proved very valuable when he started in business on his own account. In 1871 he became a partner in the firm of W. G. Stevens & Company and eventually purchased the entire business. He was thus closely identified with mercantile interests of Dixon from 1868 until 1910, or for a period of forty-two years. After he became sole proprietor the store was conducted under the name of I. B. Countryman, and in 1896 was incorporated, at which time he admitted his nephew, E. J. Countryman to a partnership. At that time Isaac B. Countryman retired

from the management of the business and has since devoted his attention to outside financial interests. Whatever he has undertaken throughout his entire career, he has carried forward to successful completion, brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by persistent, earnest and untiring effort. In 1902 he became associated with others in the organization of the Union State Bank, of which he was chosen president.

He still remains at the head of that institution, which has become one of the strong financial concerns of this part of the state. Mr. Countryman opened a subdivision of sixty acres, now a part of the town of Oelwein, Iowa, and he has large holdings of farm lands in Lee county, Illinois, and in southern Minnesota. His investments have been most judiciously made and indicate his keen insight and sagacity.

In 1898 Mr. Countryman was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Becker of Dixon, a native of Schoharie county, New York. They are members of the Universalist church and Mr Countryman belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and to the Masonic fraternity, being now a Knight Templar Mason. All through the years of his residence in Dixon his labors have been of a character that contribute to general prosperity as well as to individual success. He has never allowed personal interests or ambition to dwarf his public spirit or activities. His is the record of a strenuous life—the record of strong individuality, sure of itself; stable in purpose, quick in perception; swift in decision, energetic and persistent in action. His views have ever found expression in prompt action rather than in theory and his life work, therefore, has been fruitful of good results.

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#### CLARENCE D. SANDERS.

Clarence D. Sanders, one of the most extensive landowners and prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Lee county, was born in Bradford township, September 16, 1883. He is a son of J. F. and Martha (George) Sanders, natives of Lee county, where the mother passed away in early life. The father afterward married again and moved to Texas, where he purchased a farm, upon which his death occurred a few months later. To his first union were born three children: N. H., a farmer in Bradford township; Clarence D., of this review; and Grace M., deceased.





CLARENCE D. SANDERS





Clarence D. Sanders accompanied his father to Texas after acquiring his education in the public schools in Bradford township. In 1905 he returned to Lee county, Illinois, and for about one year worked in the employ of his brother N. H. Sanders. In 1912 he acquired two hundred acres of land in Bradford township and upon this property has since resided, making it by his intelligent management and progressive methods one of the finest agricultural properties in his locality. He has other valuable and important property holdings, owning one hundred and sixty acres in Pocahontas county, Iowa, a thirty acre fruit farm in Idaho and thirty acres of excellent land in Texas.

In Lee county, in 1907 Mr. Sanders was united in marriage to Miss Carrie L. Dewey, who was born in Ida county, Iowa, a daughter of Charles L. and Emma Dewey. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders have three children: Hazel M., who was born May 20, 1908; Kenneth R., born August 18, 1909; and C. L., born April 12, 1913. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Sanders gives his political allegiance to the republican party. His attention is, however, largely concentrated upon the conduct of his business interests and, being progressive, intelligent and enterprising, he has gained a success which has been worthily won and is always well used.

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### HARRY L. FORDHAM.

In financial and political circles of Lee county the name of Harry L. Fordham is well known. For an extended period he was actively connected with banking interests and at the same time he found opportunity to discharge the duties of citizenship and to study those questions which are a vital force in promoting the welfare and progress of city, state and nation. He was born in Green Ridge, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1869, and is a son of Albert P. and Eliza (Litts) Fordham, who in the year 1874 left the Keystone state and removed to Compton, Illinois.

Spending his boyhood days there under the parental roof, Harry L. Fordham attended the public schools and in early manhood was called to public office, being clerk of the village, in which capacity he served for three years. His fidelity and capability in that connection led to his selection for other offices. He was assessor for five years, was township clerk for three years and for five years was

president of the village board. Even before age conferred upon him the right of franchise he was an interested student of political problems and for six years he was chairman of the democratic central committee, while for three years he was its secretary. His position has never been an equivocal one. He has ever fearlessly and frankly announced his opinions upon questions affecting the commonwealth and in 1912, upon the organization of the progressive party, being in sympathy with its purposes and its principles, he joined its ranks and was made a member of the executive committee of Illinois and chosen treasurer of that committee. In all his public life he has made personal aggrandizement subservient to the general good. While undoubtedly he is not without that honorable ambition which is so powerful and useful as an incentive to activity in public affairs, he regards the pursuits of private life as being in themselves abundantly worthy of his best efforts and the energy, perseverance and keen sagacity which have characterized his conduct of business affairs have given him prominence in financial circles. His initial step, however, was made in connection with the profession of teaching, which he followed for seven or eight years, and later he devoted two years to merchandising in West Brooklyn. In 1898 he organized the Farmers & Traders Bank, of which he was the first cashier, remaining in that connection until he came to Dixon in 1911. The bank has since been converted into the First National Bank of Compton. At the time of his removal to Dixon he also resigned his position as supervisor of Brooklyn township, which office he filled for five years, being chairman of the board at the time he presented his resignation. Seeking a broader field of activity, he took up his abode in Dixon and has since been connected with the Union State Bank as its cashier. He has been a close and discriminating student of the involved and complex problems of banking and few men are better informed concerning questions of finance.

Mr. Fordham was married on the 29th of March, 1893, to Miss Addie B. Cole, a native of Compton and a daughter of Frank and Margaret Cole. Mr. and Mrs. Fordham now have two children; Frank A., who is associated with his father in the bank; and Harry L., at home. The religious faith of the family is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are loyal adherents. They are generous in its support and take an active part in its work. In fact Mr. Fordham has ever manifested due recognition of all the duties and obligations of life. The subjective and objective forces of life are in him well balanced. To make his native

talents subserve the demands which the conditions of society impose at the present time is his purpose and by reason of the mature judgment which characterizes his efforts he stands today as a splendid representative of the prominent financiers to whom business is but one phase of life and does not exclude active participation in and support of the other vital interests which go to make up human existence.

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### F. M. YOCUM.

A history of the business development of Lee county during the past thirty years would be incomplete without mention of the activities of F. M. Yocum, who beginning with the installation of one telephone line among his neighbors has evolved a large system, known as the Yocum Telephone Lines, thus contributing in an exceptionally useful way to general progress and advancement in this section of the state. Moreover, he has been for many years connected with agricultural interests as the proprietor of a fine farm of four hundred acres near the city limits of West Brooklyn and by practical methods in its cultivation has made this one of the most valuable properties in the locality. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1851, and is a son of Thomas D. and Rachel (Stedman) Yocum, pioneers in Lee county. The father settled with his family south of Amboy on the Colonel Wyman farm, in 1855 and after four years and a half bought a farm on the same section whereon his son is now residing. He became one of the prominent men of this locality and his death, which occurred in 1907, when he was eighty-five years of age, was widely and deeply regretted. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1878, at the age of fifty-eight. Both are buried in West Brooklyn.

F. M. Yocum acquired his education in the district schools of Brooklyn township and also attended the academy at East Paw Paw for a few winters. He laid aside his books at the age of twenty-one, but continued on his father's farm until 1877, when he bought a drug store at Lamoille, operating this for one year. In 1878 he returned to the farm and soon afterward installed a telegraph line from his home to the town of West Brooklyn. Later he ran telephone wires between his neighbors' houses and his own, extending these by degrees until gradually the large sys-

tem known as the Yocum Telephone Lines was established. This has grown with great rapidity, exchanges being now operated in West Brooklyn and Compton and the lines covering seventy square miles of territory.

In West Brooklyn, October 16, 1878, Mr. Yocum married Miss Martha Cooper, a daughter of William and Hannah Cooper, both of whom have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Yocum have one son, Floyd, a telephone manager at Ventura, California. Mr. Yocum is independent in his political views and, while not an office seeker, is interested in the development of the community in which he so long resided. To its progress he has made many substantial contributions in the course of years, winning for himself a place among men of marked ability and substantial worth.

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### GROVER W. GEHANT.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the records of Lee county without learning how long and prominently the Gehant family have been connected with the material development and substantial upbuilding of this section.

Modest Salastine Gehant, grandfather of Grover W. Gehant, arrived here from France, at an early epoch in the development of the county and his descendants have since been very active in furthering the work of public progress through identification with agricultural, commercial and professional interests.

Grover W. Gehant was born in Brooklyn township, Lee county, Illinois, on August 28, 1885, being the eldest of six children of Xavier F. and Lena M. (Gallisath) Gehant, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. His early educational opportunities were supplemented by a course in North Dixon high school followed by a complete commercial and stenographic course in Coppins' Commercial College, this city. He then entered the Northern Illinois College of Law at Dixon for a full three years' law course from which institution he graduated with the class of 1911. Shortly after graduation he was admitted to practice and opened a law office in Dixon from which time he has been actively engaged in the practice of the law.

In the spring of 1913 Mr. Gehant was elected justice of the peace and has also acted as deputy clerk to the circuit court of Lee county. He is also a notary public. On July 30, 1913, he



was elected secretary of the Northern Illinois College of Law Alumni Association. He became a member of the Dixon Marine Band at the time of its organization in 1905, and remained with same for about seven years. Recently Mr. Gehant became a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Dixon Lodge No. 779, and is now serving a term as trustee of the People's church. His interests are varied, indicating a broad-minded man, and his social qualities render him popular so that the circle of his friends is constantly growing. He is well known in this county, where the greater part of his life has been passed, and his own record bids fair to rival in usefulness and the attainment of prominence the records already made by those in the legal profession of this county.

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### JAMES GARRETT.

Although thirty-nine years have elapsed since James Garrett passed away there are yet many who remember his integrity of character and personal characteristics as well as the enterprise and industry which made him one of the valued and respected citizens of Lee county, where for many years he was successfully connected with agricultural interests. He was a pioneer of this county, his residence here dating from 1865, and he was numbered among those who contributed in substantial measure to the county's growth and advancement. He was a native of County Down, Ireland, born October 4, 1827, a son of James and Rebina (Patterson) Garrett, of Scotch Presbyterian stock from the north of Ireland.

James Garrett of this review came to America in 1854 after serving an apprenticeship in a linen draper's establishment in Belfast, Ireland, and located first in Rockdale, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, where he remained for about three years in the employ of William Brown, a dry goods merchant there. At the end of that time he moved to Illinois, settling on a farm in Ogle county about the year 1857. After a time he went to Rochelle and there turned his attention to the mercantile business, operating a store for three years. In 1865 he removed to Lee county and purchased a farm where the town of Ashton now stands. For a number of years thereafter he remained active in agricultural and

business pursuits in this vicinity, managing his farm ably and successfully until his death, which occurred November 26, 1874.

On the 1st of October, 1860, Mr. Garrett was united in marriage to Miss Louise C. Hatch, who was born near Sublette, in Lee county, a daughter of Sherman L. and Lucy (Brown) Hatch, natives of Vermont and pioneers in Illinois. They came to Buffalo by stage in 1837 and thence by way of the Great Lakes to Chicago, where they obtained wagons in which they conveyed their household goods to Lee county. Sherman L. Hatch took up a homestead claim in this locality and for many years thereafter was connected with farming interests here. He was one of the early settlers in this part of the state and his first home had a dirt floor in the general living room, and a floor in the chamber made of split rails covered with cornstalks. His door was at first a blanket nailed up to keep out the chill night air and all of the tables and chairs in the house were home-made. The crude log cabin was subsequently destroyed by fire and in 1846 Mr. Hatch built a sixteen by twenty frame house which he replaced in 1852 by a brick residence. For a number of years he courageously faced the hardships and privations of pioneer existence, becoming in the course of time one of the prominent farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Lee county. His death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Garrett, in Ashton, February 7, 1903. He and his wife became the parents of four children: Mrs. Harriet L. Gardner, of Sublette, Illinois; Mrs. Garrett, widow of the subject of this review; Mrs. Julia A. Latta, deceased, and Charles L., who lives on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett became the parents of four children. The eldest, James H., was graduated from the Illinois State University in 1886. He married Miss Eliza Jennings Scott and they became the parents of two children, the elder being a daughter, who was also graduated from the State University, receiving her degree June 9, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett's second son, Frank S., has passed away. William B., a resident of Wyoming, married Miss L. Perkins, of St. Louis, Missouri. George B., who completes the family, was born May 2, 1875, and now makes his home with his mother. He married Miss Bertha B. Wingert, a native of Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of J. W. and Hannah (Hittle) Wingert, the former of whom died June 8, 1913, and the latter August 23, 1911. George B. Garrett is at present engaged in the fire insurance business in Ashton.

James Garrett passed away November 26, 1874, and was laid to rest in the Ashton cemetery. He had become very widely

known in this locality and his sterling qualities gained him the good-will and confidence of all with whom he was associated in business or social relations. He left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name and an example that is well worthy of emulation. Mrs. Garrett still owns two farms of one hundred acres each in Lee county and a fine residence in Ashton, where she makes her home. She is well and favorably known in the village and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of her acquaintances.

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### E. J. COUNTRYMAN.

E. J. Countryman is prominent as a man whose constantly expanding powers have taken him from humble surroundings to the field of large enterprises and continually broadening opportunities. He has brought to bear upon business situations a clear understanding that readily solves complex problems and unites into a harmonious whole unrelated and even diverse elements. He is today the controlling factor in the largest mercantile enterprise of Dixon, being president of the E. J. Countryman Company, dealers in general merchandise, including dry goods, shoes, meats and groceries.

Mr. Countryman was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1870 and acquired a public-school education which brought him eventually to graduation from the high school of Rochelle, Illinois. Early in his business career he entered the Rochelle (Ill.) National Bank, where he spent three years before coming to Dixon in 1893. On his arrival in this city he entered the employ of his uncle, I. B. Countryman, who had been identified with the commercial interests in Dixon from 1868. After three years' experience, during which time he had largely acquainted himself with various phases of the business, his uncle withdrew from active management, following the incorporation under the name of I. B. Countryman Company. This is perhaps the oldest established general mercantile house of the city. It was originally the property of W. G. Stevens & Company, of which firm I. B. Countryman became a member in 1871. A little later he purchased the store, which he conducted under his own name until 1896. From that time forward the business was carried on under the style of I. B. Countryman Company until 1910, when a reorganization was effected under the name of E. J.

Countryman Company with the subject of this review as president. They have the largest store in Dixon, occupying two floors, fifty by one hundred and fifty feet and employing from fifteen to twenty-two people. The steps in the orderly progression which mark the life record of E. J. Countryman are easily discernible. With marked ability to plan and perform, he stands as one of the conspicuous figures in commercial circles in Lee county and his business activity has found an even balance in his honorable methods.

In 1894 Mr. Countryman was united in marriage to Miss Alice Sheaff, a native of Ogle county. They are well known socially in Dixon, their home being the abode of a warm-hearted hospitality. Mr. Countryman holds membership with the Masonic fraternity and the Elks, and at no time has he ever been neglectful of the duties of citizenship. For four years he was a member of the board of education and for two years acted as its chairman, during which time a new high-school building was erected. He is one of the organizers and charter members of the Union State Bank and one of its directors. Anyone meeting Mr. Countryman would know at once that he is an individual embodying all the elements of what in this country we term "a square man;" one in whom to have confidence, a dependable man in any relation and any emergency. His quietude of deportment, his easy dignity; his frankness and cordiality of address with the total absence of anything sinister or anything to conceal, foretold a man who is ready to meet any obligation of life with the confidence and courage that come of conscious, personal ability, right conception of things and an habitual regard for what is best in the exercise of human activities.

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## HELMERSHAUSEN

### A. THE HELMERSHAUSEN FAMILY IN WEIMAR

- I. Jonas Helmershausen and Catharine Niedlingen.
- II. Georg Casper Helmershausen and Barbara Rosen, daughter of Johann Rosen and Anna Catherine Rheinfranken.
- III. Georg Friedrich Helmershausen and Anna Clara Stammencenz, daughter of Franciscus Eustachius Stammencenz and Catherine von Seelen of Leipsic.
- IV. Dr. Georg Franz Friedrich Helmershausen and Maria Henrietta Scheibe, daughter of Johann Benedicti Scheibe and Charlotte Mosher, of Weimar.





Henry  
1816  
1901

Harrison  
1818  
1905

Charles  
1809  
living  
1914

Sylvanus  
1825  
1912

Norman  
1831  
1908

DELMERSTADTSEN PIONEER BROTHERS OF FRANKLIN GROVE





- V. Dr. Heinrich Friedrich Helmershausen, eldest son of Dr. Georg Franz Friedrich, born 1751, in Lobenstein, Reuss, died 1831, in Jefferson, Maine.
- VI. Henry Frederick, Jr., of Maine.
- VI. Henry Charles Frederick of Maine and Illinois.

## B. THE HELMERSHAUSEN FAMILY IN MAINE

- I. Dr. Henry Frederick Helmershausen, 1751-1831.  
Anna Marsh, his wife, 1751-1825.
- II. Henry Frederick Helmershausen, 1784-1865.  
Lydia McLintock, his wife, 1794-1873.
- III. Rev. Edwin Adams Helmershausen, 1818-1873.  
Maria (Mrs. Capt. Eber Montgomery), 1820-1892.  
Nancy (Mrs. Elijah Averill), 1821-1897.  
Robert McLintock Helmershausen, 1825-1831.  
Eleanor (Mrs. Moses Tibbetts), 1827-1899.  
William Henry Helmershausen, 1830-1902.  
Charles Frederick Helmershausen, 1833-1892.  
Jane Elizabeth, 1835-1897.
- II. Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, 1789-1869.  
Jane Hilton, his wife, 1790-1878.
- III. William Henry Helmershausen, 1816-1901.  
Harrison Helmershausen, 1818-1905.  
Harriet Mathilda (Mrs. William Clark Robinson), 1820-1872.  
Mary Jane Frederica, 1822-1892.  
Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, Jr., 1822—living in 1914.  
Sophia Henrietta Charlotte Frederica (Mrs. Thomas Elliott), 1824-1901.  
Sylvanus Cobb Helmershausen, 1825-1912.  
These were born near Bristol, Bremen township, Lincoln county. The first three in Massachusetts, the last four in Maine.  
Faustina Maria (Mrs. Truman Townsend), 1827-1910.  
Catherine Henrietta (Mrs. Charles Twombly), 1829-1855.  
Norman Helmershausen, 1831-1908.  
Eliza Dorothea Frederica, 1834-1834.  
These were born near Bangor, Penobscot county, Maine.

## C. THE HELMERSHAUSEN FAMILY IN ILLINOIS

Henry and Harrison moved to what is now Lee county in 1838. The father came in the summer of 1840. The mother and younger children in December, 1840.

## IV. Children of Harrison.

Ann Loucetta (Mrs. Thomas Wertman).  
Harrison.  
Frederick Henry.

## IV. Children of Harriet.

Henry Clinton, dead.  
Sophia (Mrs. Robert McCoy).  
George Russell, dead.  
Georgiana Harriet, dead.

## IV. Children of Charles.

Harriet Augusta (Mrs. Ferrie Ramsdell), dead.  
George Charles Frederick, dead.  
Adella Johanne Frederica, dead.  
Maud Minnie Adella.  
Frank Daniel.  
Homer Chase.  
Floyd Thayer.  
Alice Ada Dorothea.  
Charles Bryant Edwin, dead.  
Henry Warren Frederick.

## IV. Children of Sylvanus.

Ida Catherine (Mrs. Frank Moulton).  
Charles Frederick.  
Lillian Alice (Mrs. Lorin Townsend).  
Grace Edna (Mrs. Simon Remley).  
May Edith (Mrs. George Brown).

## IV. Children of Faustina.

Frederick Eugene.  
Charles B., dead.  
Clara Josephine, dead.  
William Henry, dead.  
Francis B.  
Lorin J.

Carrie Adella (Mrs. William Cosey).

## IV. Child of Catherine.

Ida Catherine (Mrs. Howard Myers).

## IV. Children of Norman.

Adella J., dead.

Gratia Mabel, dead.

Jennie.

## V. Children of Ann Loucetta.

James Clark, dead.

Albert Jesse.

## V. Children of Harrison, Jr., called "Hal."

Pearl.

Harry.

Clarence.

Esther.

Helen.

## V. Child of Frederick Henry.

Winifred Armine.

## V. Children of Henry.

Harriet Mathilda.

Alden Clark.

Roscoe Otto.

Elmer Charles.

Mary Ellen.

## V. Children of George.

Lucy Viola.

William Clark, dead.

Frank, dead.

Albert George.

Roscoe.

## V. Child of Georgiana.

William Clark.

## V. Children of Harriet (Charles).

Katherine Belle (Mrs. John Cover).

Charles Luther.

Robert Willard.

## V. Children of Floyd.

Charles Bradstreet Earl.

Alice Eva Blanche.

Mildred Evelyn Lois.

## V. Children of Ida.

Guy Ernest.

Ruth.

Violet

- Inez Lydia, dead.
- Infant, dead.
- V. Child of Charles Frederick.
  - Bessie.
- V. Child of Lillian.
  - Ethel Blanche.
- V. Children of May.
  - Marguerite Harriet.
  - Lucile.
- V. Children of Frederick Eugene.
  - Florence, dead.
  - Lillian, dead.
  - Others.
- V. Child of Francis.
  - Olive Faustina.
- V. Child of Lorin.
  - Ethel Blanche.
- V. Children of Ida Catherine (Catherine).
  - Bessie Catherine.
  - Julia Mac.

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## HENRY CHARLES FREDERICK HELMERSHAUSEN, JR.

April 19, 1822—living, 1914

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY

My grandfather was Dr. Henry Frederick Helmershausen. My grandmother was Anna Marsh. My father was Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, who was born August 12, 1789, and died March 20, 1869, aged seventy-nine years, seven months, eight days. My mother was Jane Hilton, who was born March 21, 1790, and died December 4, 1878, aged eighty-eight years, eight months, twelve days. Both were born and brought up in the same town. My brothers and sisters were: Henry, Harrison, Harriet, Jane, myself, Sophia, Sylvanus, Faustina, Catherine, Norman, Eliza, eleven in all. Seven were born in Bremen township, Lincoln county, Maine, and the four youngest in Glenburn township, Penobscot county, Maine.

Eliza died in Glenburn township, Penobscot county, Maine, about two miles from Bangor, when she was a little girl.





HARRIET MATHILDA (HELMERSHAUSEN) ROBINSON  
January 19, 1820—April 10, 1872



The family moved to Penobscot county from Lincoln county when I, Charles, was four years old and Sylvanus was ten months old. Bought one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, the second farm from Bangor township line over north into Glenburn township. The city of Bangor covered the township of Bangor. We were twelve miles from Old Town. Built a log house and a log barn, and then a frame house. We lived there fourteen years, then moved to Illinois. Henry and Harrison came in 1838, father came in the summer of 1840, and mother, I, Sylvanus, Faustina, Catherine and Norman came in November and December, 1840. Took Captain Parker's boat "The Saumup" down the Penobscot river to New York city; came up the Hudson river to Albany, across Erie canal to Buffalo; took the old "General Wayne," a boat, to Toledo; came on a corduroy railroad to Adrian, Michigan, and stopped to see Silas Sears, who had moved a year before from Glenburn. He was a neighbor and a great friend of father's. We rented a house of a man named Bachelor and remained a month. I girdled trees while waiting. As soon as Mr. Penfield (who lived where Miles Bahen did later, on the road from Franklin Grove to Amboy) came for us with one team, the household goods were repacked and the family came to Illinois the latter part of December. I (Charles) and Sylvanus walked all the way. Catherine rode, and in a jolt fell off, but grabbed the horse's tail and saved herself an injury. The horses stood still until she got safely into the wagon. It was very cold, but I kept warm walking. The others were warmly wrapped up, as mother had brought much bedding. We arrived Thursday night at Lee Center, where mother remained all night at Russell Linn's house, while I, with Sylvanus, walked over to Colonel Nathan Whitney's frame house and he directed us to "the Noe House" near Franklin creek. We were very glad to see father and he was very glad to see us. The next day (Friday) I walked to what is now the village of Franklin Grove and shot a wild turkey. On Monday I went out and helped Colonel Whitney. In the spring we set out trees in his nursery. We planted the "old orchard." He was a fine man and I had many pleasant and profitable conversations with him. We began to buy land and farm it, enduring the usual hardships of pioneers. We slept in the loft of the cabin, and when we arose in the morning often brushed away a snowdrift. We were happy and contented. We teamed to Peru and to Chicago. We had solid silver spoons, large and heavy, which our mother had from her family, the Hiltons. She had also a string of gold beads which were from her family, and which each

baby had worn. The marks of my first teeth are on them yet, as I was the only child, mother said, who bit the beads. We went to "singing schools," "spelling schools," on winter evenings, driving often many miles. We were not annoyed by wolves or wild animals. There were no Indians in our vicinity.

In 1853, thirteen years after, I went back alone, attending the Great Fair at New York city, which was a very celebrated fair at that time. Uncle Frederick, who was five years older than father, had married Miss Lydia McLintock, of a Scottish family. They lived at Jefferson on a farm. They used "Helmershausen" in full. Rev. Edwin Helmershausen, William and Charles were my three cousins, each Uncle Frederick's son; and the four girls were Maria, Nancy, Eleanor, and Jane. One son, Robert, was dead. Maria, who married Captain Eber Montgomery, was a large, intelligent woman of strong and ready mind, and my father esteemed her highly. Jane never married but lived with Charles, her brother. She kept the data and traditions of our family. She had a pair of silver knee-buckles which General Washington gave our father's father in the Revolutionary war; and a pair of cuff-links he used to wear marked "C." She kept the knee-buckles and gave me the cuff-links, thus dividing the two pieces of silver which grandfather cherished between his two sons' sons. There was grandfather's crest and coat-of-arms, but not used in our country. I visited my mother's mother. She was "Grandmother Peaselee" by name, for after Grandfather Hilton's death she married Mr. Jonathan Peaselee. She had two sons, Jacob and Riley, whom I saw. She also had Reuel. They were my mother's half-brothers, both Baptists, and she lived with Jacob. She was dark, lean, tall, and although nearly ninety years of age, was vivacious and sensible to converse with. She sat up firm and straight and walked one-half mile from Jacob's home to the Baptist church and back on each Sabbath day unless very inclement weather prevented. She had had Jane, John, Samuel, Enoch and James and Hannah Hilton, Jacob, Reuel and Riley Peaselee. I think she was different from mother, and that mother favored her father, the Hiltons, and that my uncle John Hilton favored his mother, for Uncle John was tall, dark and handsome. Grandmother lived at the forks of the road near Jefferson, Riley lived a half mile farther on. Her daughter Jane, my mother, married Charles Helmershausen. James Hilton was lost at sea and deeply mourned. John Hilton lived in Augusta. His wife was Aunt Catherine Hilton, for whom my sister, Catherine Twombly, was named. They had five children,



MARY JANE FREDERICA HELMERSHAUSEN

April 19, 1822—April 16, 1892





who were my full cousins: Charles, Eugene, Faustina, Catherine and a babe. Uncle John was a chaise-maker at Augusta, and owned three shops (iron shop, wood shop, trimming shop), so he could make all the parts of a chaise. They were very elegant conveyances in those days. He afterwards died and his family came west, stopped and visited us, and went on to Nebraska to settle. My people were "Pilgrim" people of England; that is, my ancestors were Puritans, they said, on my mother's side. I went back the second time, 1858, and in June, 1885, the third time, and visited William at East Jefferson, and Charles. I saw the same old knolls, hills and waters. The house father built was standing in Glenburn township, and Norman, who was with me, went in and said, "I was born in this room." The house was in excellent condition, being shingled to the ground. Harrison, Norman and I went in 1885. I went to a little schoolhouse in Glenburn township on William Sherman's farm. Years ago we spelled in Webster's Speller and we had much mental arithmetic. I used to spell the school down, for I worked in school. Some of our neighbors in Glenburn township were the families of Samuel Dole (who had ten children) and lived opposite our house; Silas Sears, Andrew Merrill, Martin White, William Sherman; also the Websters, Abbotts, Clarkes, Merrills. I read in a Bangor paper this week that Olive Merrill was dead, aged eighty years. She was a schoolmate of ours in that little red schoolhouse. There is no one left; if I should go back, there are only the old hills and trees and rocks, but it is strange how plainly I can see them all, distinctly and perfectly, and yet it is a great while ago—a great while. My grandfather fought under General Washington; my father was in the 1812 war; I am here and there has been a great deal of history since we three lived; great history; it comes back and I remember them. It is strange one remembers his youth so long!

Signed and written down, Sabbath evening, April 9, 1905.

HENRY CHARLES FREDERICK HELMERSHAUSEN, JR.

1. Jonas Helmershausen, of Weimar
2. Georg Casper Helmershausen
3. Georg Friedrich Helmershausen
4. Dr. Georg Franz Friedrich Helmershausen
5. Dr. Henry Frederick Helmershausen

6. Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen
7. Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, Jr.
  1. William Hilton, of Hilton Point, Dover
  2. William Hilton, of York, Maine
  3. Lieut. William Hilton
  4. Stilson Hilton
  5. Samuel Hilton
  6. John Hilton
  7. Jane Hilton

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### ADELLA HELMERSHAUSEN.

Authoress of the adopted school song of Lee county; Daughter of the American Revolution, Dixon Chapter; Daughter of the Illinois Daughters of 1812; graduate of Franklin Grove High School, class of 1885; of Dixon College, 1891, later A. M.; Northern Illinois State Normal School at De Kalb, 1900; upper senior in University of Chicago. A native of Lee county. The first members of her family moved to Illinois in 1838, a year before Lee county was organized. By profession a city school teacher of sub-normal pupils; friend of the newsboys and unfortunate children of the streets.

### A PLEA FOR A SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

In Lee County, to Stand in The Court House Square.

Ay, lift the noble shaft to fame  
 Revere the soldier dead!  
 Their warfare and their valor name  
 Where freedom and where glory claim  
 The conquest which they led.  
 The battle-legions of the free.  
 The sires and sons of loyal Lee.

Some sleep beneath the southern sun  
 Where cypress copse is green;  
 Some sleep where Shiloh waters run,  
 Where coast sands sift from grey to dun  
 The hemlock hills between.  
 The battle-legions of the free  
 The sires and sons of loyal Lee.



CATHERINE HENRIETTA (HELMERSHAUSEN) TWOMBLY  
November 30, 1829—March 30, 1855





Near Father Dixon's cabin home  
Where Ogee's ferry crossed,  
Where wild gulls soar to heaven's dome,  
Where waters whiten into foam  
    By boulders grey and mossed;  
Ay, lift the noble shaft on high  
To earth and river, wood and sky.

From Sangamon brave Lincoln came  
    In early Illinois,  
He saw the settler's roof in flame,  
The tomahawk, the scalping shame  
    The redman's savage joy.  
His comrades then in bravery  
The sires and sons of loyal Lee.

O lovely Lee, at Franklin Grove,  
    The sylvan woodlands by,  
The wild deer there no longer rove,  
The birch canoe no more in cove,  
    The creeks and waters nigh,  
There wood doves call in twilight gloam,  
There white gulls soar to heaven's dome.

Ay, lift the noble shaft! In tears  
    Recall the loved at home.  
The wife of all the widowed years,  
The soldiers' orphans. In their cheers  
    Is sob at twilight gloam.  
Their sacrifice no meagre part.  
The aching hunger of the heart.

My uncle fell at Perryville  
    That dark October day.  
"First sergeant missing" (war news ill)  
"Missing" his mother whispered still  
    When old and bent and gray.  
Unknown. In Nameless Graves. Ah me!  
The sires and sons of loyal Lee.

Ay, lift the noble shaft to fame.  
    Revere the soldier dead!  
Call muster, speak each honored name.

Where glory and where valor claim  
The conquest which they led.  
Sound "Taps"! Ay, lift the shaft on high  
To earth and river, wood and sky!

### THE COUNTY LEE.

Words by Adella Helmershausen

Music by Henry C. Work.

(Tune—"Marching Through Georgia.")

For the benediction of the heavens overhead;  
For the dauntless courage where our fathers fought and bled;  
For the grace and glory where our brothers on have led,  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!

#### Chorus:

We hail in song the Beautiful and Free,  
A song of cheer, O loved and Loyal Lee,  
Forth thy starry banner floats for Law and Liberty  
Over thine altars forever.

From the blue Rock River with its vanishing canoe,  
From the grove and thicket where the deer have skirted through,  
From the open prairie with the cabin still in view,  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!

Dost thou dream O county loved, of "Lighthorse Harry" Lee,  
How his dashing cohorts rode as legions of the Free,  
How he crowned our Washington with deathless eulogy?  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!

Where the Dixon Ferry ran above the river's swell,  
Where the menaced shadow of the chieftain Black Hawk fell,  
Where the saintly Lincoln fought, once more the battle tell,  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!

In the lofty rigging where the winds are whistling sweet  
By the soldier's campfire where his comrades often meet  
Sailor lad and soldier lad "three cheers" afar repeat,  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!



HENRY WARREN FREDERICK HELMERSHAUSEN  
August 9, 1878



Wake the chiming chorus, touch the great bells everywhere,  
Swell the joyful music in the Illinoisan air,  
With our watchword "Victory!" and "Peace" our battle prayer,  
Hail to our loyal Lee County!

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### HENRY WARREN FREDERICK HELMERSHAUSEN.

Youngest son of Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, Jr., and his second wife, Mary, daughter of Major Daniel Moore Bradstreet, born August 9, 1878, in Franklin Grove, Illinois; graduate of the Northern Illinois State Normal School at De Kalb, class of 1903; junior in the University of Chicago; principal of public schools in Erie, 1903-1904; principal of public schools at Coal City, 1905-1906; teacher in James Monroe school, Chicago, 1906-1914.

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### CHARLES W. WAGNER.

Charles W. Wagner, giving his time and attention to the development and cultivation of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, Bradford township, is a native son of Lee county, born May 13, 1865. His parents, Jacob and Sophia (Reis) Wagner, were natives of Germany and came to America in 1855. The father farmed in Lee county for a number of years and he is now living retired in Dixon, having survived his wife since 1883.

Charles W. Wagner was reared upon his father's farm and assisted in its operation until his marriage, at the age of twenty-three. He then rented land in his locality and after several years purchased the property upon which he still resides. He has one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, Bradford township, and he has provided this with substantial barns and modern machinery. He has also tiled the farm and made a great many other improvements, the property being today one of the most productive and valuable in this section of the state.

Mr. Wagner married Miss Anna Bower, a native of Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of Wolf G. and Christina Bower. Mr. and



Mrs. Wagner have become the parents of a daughter, Nellie Deloras, born May 24, 1895. The parents are members of the Evangelical church, in which Mr. Wagner serves as trustee. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now township assessor, filling this office with credit and ability. He is well known in Bradford township, where he has spent his entire life, and he has won a place among representative agriculturists and useful citizens.

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### EDWARD E. WINGERT.

Edward E. Wingert, an active practitioner at the bar of Lee county, his ability finding ready recognition in a large and distinctively representative clientage, was born in Lee county November 13, 1866, his parents being Walter J. and Mary C. (Ennert) Wingert, natives of Ohio and of Maryland respectively. It was in the year 1852 that the father came to Illinois, settling in Lee county, where he reared his family.

Edward E. Wingert obtained a public school education in Dixon, while his professional training was received in the University of Michigan, being graduated from the law department with the class of 1889. He taught language in the Northern Illinois Normal school for two years and was also a teacher in a law school for three years. He has since practiced in Dixon and has gained a creditable place among the representative members of the bar. His ability is pronounced and comes from his careful preparation of cases, his thorough analysis, his close reasoning and his logical deductions. He has been connected with many important suits that have been heard in the courts and has won many verdicts favorable to his clients.

In 1892 Mr. Wingert was married to Miss Bessie Boardman, and they have become the parents of four children: Marjorie, Bessie, Edward B. and Mary Constance. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church of which Mr. and Mrs. Wingert are members. In politics he is republican, well informed concerning the questions and issues of the day. He has never sought nor held office, however, outside of the strict path of his profession. In 1890 he was elected city attorney and served for three years, when in 1902 he was again chosen for that position, which he filled for two years. He regards the pursuits of private life as abundantly

worthy of his best efforts and his close conformity to the highest professional standards have brought him the warm regard of his fellow members of the bar and of the general public.

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### J. F. BETZ.

Probably no man in Lee county is better known as a stock breeder and dealer than J. F. Betz, who owns and operates a fine farm of four hundred acres lying on sections 17, 19 and 20, Wyoming township, specializing in the development of his stock-raising interests. He is a native son of this part of Illinois, born in Wyoming township, December 30, 1870, his parents being the late Jacob and Margaret (Pope) Betz. The father was a native of New York state and came to Lee county in 1857, making the journey with his parents. After he grew to manhood he became connected with agricultural interests here and was also active in public affairs. He died in 1894, at the age of forty-nine, and was survived by his wife until 1909, her death occurring when she was sixty-nine years of age. Both are buried in the Four Mile Grove cemetery in LaSalle county.

In the acquirement of an education J. F. Betz attended public school, laying aside his books at the age of sixteen. He afterward assisted his father with the work of the farm until he was twenty-one and then rented the homestead, operating it for a number of years thereafter. In 1907 he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres and upon his mother's death inherited another tract of one hundred and sixty acres. His land lies on sections 17, 19 and 20, Wyoming township, and constitutes one of the most valuable farms in this locality. Mr. Betz makes a specialty of pure-blooded live stock and has been successful from the beginning, his animals commanding always a high price and a ready sale. The first time he entered exhibits at the International Live Stock Exposition of Chicago he won four ribbons on pure-bred Clydesdale horses and he has since met with widespread recognition in his special field. In addition to this he is president of the First National Bank of Compton and well known in financial circles as a man of ability and enterprise.

In Mendota township, LaSalle county, Illinois, on the 9th of March, 1892, Mr. Betz was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Niebergall, a daughter of John and Catherine Niebergall, the former

a pioneer in that locality. The father died in 1908 and is buried in Four Mile Grove cemetery, LaSalle county. His wife survives him and makes her home in Mendota. Mr. and Mrs. Betz have three children: Wellington, at home; Roscoe, who was graduated in 1913 from the Compton high school; and Edwin, a student in high school.

Mr. Betz gives his political allegiance to the progressive party and is now president of the board of education and justice of the peace. He attributes the remarkable success which he has met with in his business to the fact that he has specialized in one line since the beginning of his active career, never neglecting any opportunity to increase his knowledge or promote his efficiency.

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### T. H. STETLER, M. D.

Since 1867 Dr. T. H. Stetler has been a resident of Lee county, coming to this region from Pennsylvania when twenty years of age. During the first few years in this locality he taught school, but later took up the study of medicine and in 1876 established himself in Paw Paw, where he now has successfully practiced for thirty-seven years, being recognized as one of the foremost physicians and surgeons of the city. He has an extensive and representative practice and by his many patients is considered more in the light of a friend than that of a physician. As the years have passed prosperity has come to him and he has become one of the most influential and substantial men in Paw Paw, where his professional attainments are universally recognized.

Dr. Stetler was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on August 6, 1847, a son of John and Julia (Lazarus) Stetler, the former of whom was engaged along mercantile lines in the Keystone state. He was highly respected in his residential city, where he passed away in 1886, his wife having preceded him thirty years, her death occurring in 1856. Both are buried at Hanover, Pennsylvania. The Stetler family are of German extraction but have been residents of this country for over a century.

T. H. Stetler was reared under the parental roof and the opportunity was given him of attaining a fair education. He attended public school and subsequently the Wilkes-Barre Academy, but when he had attained the age of twenty years, in 1867, he decided to seek the greater opportunities of the then west and removed to

Lee county, Illinois, where he successfully taught school for five or six years. Inclined, however, toward a professional career, he entered Northwestern University, where he attended the medical school, graduating in 1876. In that year he returned to Lee county and established himself in practice at Paw Paw, which he has since made the field of his labors and where he has attained to a position which places him with the foremost medical men of the county. In point of years of practice he is the oldest doctor in this vicinity. He is careful in diagnosis and there are few if any mistakes which have occurred in the execution of his duties during his long career. His medical standing is fully recognized in the profession and his reputation with the general public bespeaks the confidence which is reposed in him and is only too well merited.

On December 31, 1870, in Paw Paw, Illinois, Dr. Stetler was married to Miss Elizabeth Rosenkrans, a daughter of Abram and Elizabeth Rosenkrans, the former a pioneer agriculturist of Lee county, who settled here in 1855. Her parents are deceased and found their last resting place at Marble Rock, Iowa. Dr. and Mrs. Stetler have one daughter, Orla, a graduate of the Paw Paw high school, formerly a student of Northwestern University and also a graduate of the Chicago Conservatory of Music. She is a highly accomplished young lady and popular in the younger society set.

Dr. Stetler and family occupy a handsome residence which he himself erected and where he has his office. Although his professional duties are arduous and occupy practically all of his time, the Doctor has taken an active interest in matters of public importance and has served successfully as chairman of the republican central committee, although he has since embraced the principles and ideals of the progressive party. Along fraternal lines he is prominent with the Masons, being a Knight Templar, and has also been worshipful master of the blue lodge at Paw Paw. He is a member of Bethany Commandery. Along more strictly professional lines he is a member of the Lee County and Illinois State Medical Societies, a life member of the North Central Medical Association and a member of the American Medical Association, and through these connections keeps in touch with the latest discoveries and ideas which constantly revolutionize the world of medical science. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian denomination and he is a member and trustee of that church at Paw Paw. He is interested in all projects undertaken in the interests of the general public and is ever ready to give his support to worthy public enterprises and to help along measures which make



for the uplift and betterment of humanity along moral, intellectual and material lines. He is one of the most highly respected citizens of Paw Paw and the esteem and regard which he so freely enjoys are readily given in response to his professional attainments, his disinterested public spirit and those qualities of his character which have made possible his success.

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### WALLACE C. YENERICH.

Wallace C. Yenerich holds a position of distinctive precedence in financial circles of Lee county as president of the Farmers State Bank of Ashton, an institution which he aided in organizing and which his executive power and ability as a financier has placed among the leading banks in this part of the state. He was born in Buffalo, New York, February 14, 1855, his parents being George H. and Elizabeth Yenerich, natives of Germany.

Wallace C. Yenerich acquired his education in the public schools of Wyoming township, this county, and at Northwestern College at Naperville, Illinois. After completing his studies he turned his attention to farming in Wyoming township and later moved to Ashton township, where he followed agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1905. At that time, in partnership with his eldest son, E. J. Yenerich, he opened a bank at Whitten, Iowa, and he has since been president of this institution. In April, 1907, with others Mr. Yenerich organized the Farmers State Bank of Ashton, Illinois, and was elected president, an office which he has held continuously since that time. In a responsible and difficult position he has proved capable, farsighted and reliable, promoting the interests of the bank in a progressive and practical manner and winning recognition for himself as a successful financier. He controls valuable property interests, owning nearly one thousand acres of land, most of which lies in Lee county. He has stock in several banks in Minnesota and was at one time the owner of the majority of the stock in the Farmers State Bank of Ashton. He now holds a majority of the stock in the Whitten Bank at Whitten, Iowa.

In Reynolds township, this county, on the 4th of December, 1879, Mr. Yenerich was united in marriage to Miss Catherina Kersten, a daughter of John and Christina Kersten, the former a large land holder in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Yenerich have become





WALLACE C. YENERICH



the parents of the following children: Erven John; Benjamin G., who married Elma Johnson; Ellen Lizzie, the wife of C. F. Heibenthal; Charles Otis; Maybelle; and Wesley H.

Mr. Yenerich is a member of the United Evangelical church at Ashton and is active in religious circles, holding the office of Sunday-school superintendent for many years and being now a teacher of the adult Bible class. He has lived in Lee county since his childhood and his long residence here has made him widely and favorably known. In his early life he was one of the most successful farmers in this part of the state and held the world's record for husking corn and putting it into the crib in the shortest possible time. Mr. Yenerich accomplished this feat on the 24th of November, 1879, husking and putting away one hundred and forty-eight and one-quarter bushels at eighty pounds to the bushel between sunrise and sunset. Mr. Yenerich is a progressive republican in his political beliefs and interested in public affairs, although not active as an office seeker. His name stands as a synonym for integrity and honor in business circles of Ashton and is held in high esteem and respect wherever it is known.

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### J. A. ROPER.

Among the more recently established business enterprises of importance in Dixon is the manufacturing plant of the Roper Furniture Company, which was opened in 1910. It is today one of the leading productive industries of the city, contributing in large measure to the material growth and substantial development of Dixon. At its head is J. A. Roper and associated with him are two of his sons. The Roper family has long been established in the middle west. The parents of J. A. Roper removed from New York to Michigan in the early '40s. The father was a molder by trade and was a fellow workman on the molding floor with the late James Oliver of South Bend, the multi-millionaire plow manufacturer. J. A. Roper was born in Michigan in 1846 and the same year the family removed from that state to Indiana. His youthful days were devoted to the acquirement of a public school education before the war which was supplemented by a course of study in Asbury University after the war. He was but a lad of fourteen years when he joined the army, enlisting the fall of 1861 as a member of Company F. Forty-eighth

Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, being first sergeant when mustered out. For a year previous to his discharge he had command of General William T. Clark's body guards, numbering thirty men. He was the youngest member of his company to serve throughout the period of hostilities. He participated in many hotly contested engagements which led up to the final victory that crowned the union arms, and he never faltered in the face of danger nor hesitated to respond to the call of duty.

After the close of the war Mr. Roper continued a resident of Indiana for a number of years and in 1868 was married to Miss Ella M. Dowling of that state. Unto them were born five sons: H. D., who is secretary and treasurer of the Roper Furniture Company; C. A., residing at Mishawaka, Indiana, where he is engaged in the lumber business; H. C., connected with the Dixon plant; L. E. and J. Gordon, who are residing in Chicago and are engaged in the furniture business there.

During the period of his residence of Mishawaka, Indiana, J. A. Roper established a furniture manufacturing plant, which was conducted by the family for twenty-two years.

Throughout that period the business grew and prospered and it was not until 1910 that it was sold and the family removed to Dixon. Here was established the present plant of the Roper Furniture Company which today has a floor space of thirty-four thousand, four hundred and forty feet. It is a three story fire-proof building with sprinkler equipment, an engine of one hundred and twenty-five horse power, with a steam plant and also full electrical equipment. They manufacture high-grade dining room furniture, employ seventy-five people at the factory and three traveling salesmen upon the road. Their product is widely sold and they have salesrooms, warerooms and offices at No. 815 Wabash Avenue, Chicago. The present officers of the company are J. A. Roper, president; H. C. Roper, vice president and H. D. Roper, secretary and treasurer. The business was a valuable addition to the manufacturing interests of Dixon and the partners in the enterprise are all progressive business men who have no patience with underhand methods, but base their success upon determination, perseverance and talent. The simple processes are those which win results—not the intricate involved plans—and thus it is that analysis brings to light the fact that the successful men are those whose rules of business are simple in plan, even though there be a multiplicity of detail. In the conduct of the

Roper Furniture Company the efforts of the sons ably supplement and round out those of the father and trained through years of painstaking work, they are in every way adequate to assume the discharge of comprehensive duties and guide the interests of one of the most important business concerns in the city.

The family are members of the Episcopal church and in politics father and sons are progressive republicans, believing that in politics as in business, advancement should be continuously made with changes to meet the changing conditions of the times.

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### R. W. RUCKMAN.

R. W. Ruckman, a successful and popular young citizen of Amboy, has held the position of cashier in the Amboy State Bank since its inception in December, 1912. His birth occurred at Steward, Lee county, Illinois, on the 15th of September, 1890, his parents being G. A. and Carrie (Bowles) Ruckman. The father, who came to this county from West Virginia in 1878, embarked in business as a hardware merchant at Steward, where he has conducted his enterprise successfully throughout the intervening thirty-five years. He has ably served in the capacity of township treasurer for many years and is widely recognized as one of the substantial and representative citizens of the community. His wife, whose demise occurred in September, 1910, at the age of forty-five years, is buried in the Steward cemetery. The family is of old American stock.

R. W. Ruckman was graduated from the Steward high school in 1907 and then entered Coppin's Commercial College at Dixon. After leaving the latter institution he assumed the duties of assistant cashier of the First National bank of Steward and has since remained a stockholder and director thereof. In December, 1912, at the time of the organization of the Amboy State Bank, he entered that institution as cashier, in which position he has already made a creditable record, discharging his important duties in an efficient and highly commendable manner.

In his political views Mr. Ruckman is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. At the time of his removal to Amboy he had served in the office of town clerk for six months. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to the blue lodge at Steward and the chapter at Rochelle, Illinois.



He has always remained a resident of this county and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of its popular, progressive and enterprising young men.

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### LEWIS WOOD.

Lewis Wood, a veteran of the Civil war, living retired after forty-four years in the service of the Northwestern Railroad Company, was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1848. He is a son of James and Melissa (Vosburg) Wood, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in 1852, and located in Ogle county, where the father served as foreman in the construction of a dam across the Rock river at Oregon, Illinois. Both passed away in this state. To their union were born eleven children, the subject of this review being the eighth in the order of birth.

Lewis Wood remained with his parents until 1864, when he ran away from home and joined the union army, enlisting in the One Hundred and Fortieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under Captain George Turkenton. He was one of six brothers who served the union during the conflict and all came out of the service alive. Lewis Wood was mustered out with honorable discharge at Chicago, Illinois, and immediately returned home, where he remained until 1867. Two years later he entered the service of the Northwestern Railroad Company and for forty-four years and five months thereafter remained connected with this corporation, rendering his employers efficient, conscientious and capable service. He became known as one of the most reliable men in the employ of the company and in the course of years won the confidence and regard of his superiors and the good-will of his associates. Mr. Wood draws a pension of seventeen dollars and seventeen cents a month from the Northwestern Railroad and also fifteen dollars a month from the government, as a veteran of the Civil war. He owns a comfortable residence in the village of Ashton and is here spending his retired life, being widely and favorably known in the community.

In 1867 Mr. Wood was united in marriage to Miss Susan Moot, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Silas and Theresa Moot, also natives of the Dominion. The parents came to the United States in 1863, locating in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed

away. Mrs. Wood died April 9, 1913, leaving three children: Charles H.; Lily May, the wife of Fred Tilton of Ogle county; and Fred B.

Mr. Wood is connected fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Grand Army Post. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for six years as trustee of Ashton township. In matters of citizenship he is at all times progressive and public-spirited, being as loyal to his country in times of peace as he was on the southern battle fields during the Civil war.

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### CITY NATIONAL BANK.

The City National Bank of Dixon is the outgrowth of the first bank of Lee county. It was established in Dixon in 1854 by the firm of Robertson, Eastman & Company as a private bank. In time changes in the partnership led to the adoption of the firm style of Robertson, Eells & Company and since that time the name of Eells has figured in connection with the successful management and control of the institution. In 1865 a reorganization was effected under the named of the Lee County National Bank and the capital stock was raised to one hundred thousand dollars. Two decades later the name was changed to the City National Bank, the capital stock remaining the same. In this reorganization Joseph Crawford became the president with Samuel C. Eells as the cashier. Subsequent changes led to Mr. Eells becoming president, in which position he continued to the time of his demise in September, 1913. The present officers are: W. C. Durkes, president; O. J. Downing, vice president; John L. Davies, cashier, and C. E. Chandler, assistant cashier. The capital stock remains at one hundred thousand dollars and the surplus is fifty thousand dollars with undivided profits of thirty-five thousand dollars. The bank had the first safety deposit boxes in Lee county and has ever kept abreast with the advancement made in the banking business. Three per cent interest is paid on savings accounts which in this bank amount to one hundred and eighty-eight thousand and seventy-one dollars and fifty-three cents, while the individual deposits subject to check are six hundred and ten thousand and two dollars and fifty cents. The bank occupies one of the attractive business blocks of the city. It is a brick and stone

building with trimmings of Grecian marble and the fixtures are of solid mahogany. The bank is modern in every respect and since its establishment six decades ago it has maintained an unassailable reputation, the policy of its officers commending it at all times to the confidence and patronage of the general public.

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### C. W. BREWSTER.

No history of the Dixon bar would be complete without extended reference to C. W. Brewster, who for nineteen years has been in active practice here. He is one of New England's native sons, his birth having occurred in Wilton township, Franklin county, Maine, January 5, 1852. He was but a young lad at the time of the removal of the father's family to Lee county, settlement being made near Lee Center in the latter part of the '50s. The father engaged in farming and the surroundings of rural life became familiar to C. W. Brewster, who divided his time between the duties assigned him by parental authority and the acquirement of a public-school education. For nearly ten years he engaged in teaching school and then, interested in the profession of law, began preparation for the bar, to which he was admitted in 1892. He entered upon active practice in 1895 and came to Dixon, where he joined his brother E. H. Brewster. He is recognized as a popular and prominent member of the Lee county bar, his professional brethren entertaining for him warm regard by reason of his capability and his close conformity to the ethics of the profession.

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### GEORGE B. STEPHAN.

George B. Stephan, proprietor of a well appointed furniture and undertaking establishment in Ashton, is a native son of this town, born September 7, 1886. His parents, Henry and Ernestine (Goebel) Stephan, were natives of Germany and came to America in 1884, locating in Ashton, where they still reside. To their union were born six children, all of whom are still living.

George B. Stephan acquired his education in the public schools of his native city, after which he established himself in the fur-

niture and undertaking business. He carries a large and well selected line of furniture, caskets and funeral supplies and a liberal patronage is accorded to him, for his prices are reasonable and his integrity above question.

In 1909 Mr. Stephan married Miss Elizabeth Trostle, a daughter of C. W. and Mary (Miller) Trostle, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Lee county, Illinois. Mrs. Stephan is a member of the Presbyterian church and well known in religious and social circles of the town.

Mr. Stephan is connected fraternally with Ashton Lodge, No. 997, I. O. O. F.; Dixon Lodge, No. 779, B. P. O. E.; Ashton Lodge, No. 48, M. W. A.; and Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M. He gives his political allegiance to the progressive party and is now serving as county coroner, having been elected to that office in 1912. He has held steadily to high standards in business and official relations and well merits the esteem and good-will which are uniformly accorded him.

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### ADAM WENDEL.

Since 1901 Adam Wendel has owned and operated a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Bradford township and he has become known as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of his locality. He was born in Germany, May 11, 1868, and is a son of Ciriacus and Martha Wendel, also natives of that country. The parents came to America in 1869 and located in Lee county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming, later living retired, his death occurring in 1909. He had survived his wife since 1901. To their union were born seven children, six of whom are still living.

Adam Wendel was one year old when his parents came to Lee county and he was reared upon his father's farm here, acquiring his education in the district schools. When he began his independent career at the age of twenty-one he turned his attention to farming, operating rented land until 1901. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Bradford township and he has since lived upon this property, which reflects everywhere his careful supervision and practical methods in its management. Upon it he has erected substantial buildings and he has installed modern



machinery, neglecting nothing which might add to the appearance or value of the property.

On the 11th of February, 1892, Mr. Wendel married Miss Mary Magdalene Bower, and they have become the parents of five children: Hannah E., at home; Henry Ray; one who died in infancy; Robert A., deceased; and Roy W. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Wendel gives his political allegiance to the republican party, has been school director and school trustee and is now serving as road commissioner. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and as such is interested in the growth and development of the county where he has spent practically his entire life.

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### HENRY VAUPEL.

Among those who contributed in substantial measures to the agricultural development of Lee county Henry Vaupel was numbered. He settled in this part of Illinois in 1863 and from that time until his death, in 1909, remained an honored and respected resident, his interests extending to many fields and touching closely the business, political and social growth of the community. He was born in Germany, August 23, 1844, and came to America when he was nineteen years of age, settling immediately in Lee county, Illinois, where for six years he worked as a farm laborer. At the end of that time he rented a farm of eighty acres and after two years purchased two hundred and forty acres, upon which he carried on general farming and stock-raising successfully until he retired from active life and moved to Ashton. Later he bought an additional three hundred and fifty-five acres and at the time of his death was an extensive landholder, owning five hundred and ninety-five acres well improved and cultivated. His widow still owns two hundred and forty acres of the homestead and the house in Ashton where she makes her home.

Mr. Vaupel married Miss Mary Heibenthal, a native of Bradford, Lee county, and a daughter of Charles and Martha Heibenthal. Mr. and Mrs. Vaupel became the parents of nine children: John, a resident of Lee county; Anna, deceased; William, of North Dakota; Christina, the wife of Samuel Moll of Dixon, Illinois; Sarah, deceased; Charles, of Melvin, Iowa; May, the wife of Will Burhenn; Henry, of Lee county; and Harry, at home.





HENRY VUPPEL AND FAMILY



Mr. Vaupel was a member of the Evangelical church and gave his political allegiance to the republican party. For several years he rendered the county efficient service as a member of the board of commissioners and he was for six years tax collector. His success came to him as the legitimate and logical reward of his perseverance and labor. Although he did not seek to figure prominently before the public, he came to be known throughout the community as an exemplary citizen, a faithful husband and father and a reliable and trustworthy business man.

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### J. ARTHUR EDWARDS.

J. Arthur Edwards, a well known ice dealer of Amboy and one of the most progressive and successful business men of that community, was born in Lee county, in the city where he now resides, October 28, 1871. He is a son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Saul) Edwards, the former of whom came to Illinois at an early date and opened the first livery stable in Amboy, this establishment having been in continuous operation from 1855 to the present time. The father was also a railroad contractor and aided in the construction of the Illinois Central, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Toledo & St. Louis Railroads. He was a staunch republican in his political beliefs and held many important public positions, serving during the Civil war as horse buyer for the government and being afterward sheriff of Lee county and county supervisor. He died in April, 1900, at the age of seventy-two, and is buried in the Prairie Repose cemetery.

J. Arthur Edwards acquired his education in the Amboy public schools, which he attended until he was thirteen years of age. He then assisted his father in the livery business for some time, after which he was for four years fireman on the Illinois Central Railroad. He was afterward in the livery business with his brother for two years and at the end of that time turned his attention to his present occupation, his father having established the concern some years before. Mr. Edwards has now a large and representative patronage and conducts it successfully, for he is a business man of unusual energy and capacity.

In Amboy, on the 4th of August, 1897, Mr. Edwards married Miss Mary Waters, a daughter of Arthur and Mary (Quirk) Waters, the former a railroad man and an early settler in Amboy.

Mr. Edwards makes his home in the house in which he was born, this being about fifty-five years old.

Mr. Edwards is a democrat in his political beliefs and served for one term as marshal of Amboy. No public or private trust reposed in him has ever been neglected and his fidelity to honorable and upright principles has ever won him the good-will and friendship of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### CONRAD DURKES.

The specific and distinctive office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave the perpetual record establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his fellow-men. Throughout Lee county Conrad Durkes was spoken of in terms of admiration and respect. As the architect of his own fortunes he builded wisely and well and while promoting individual success, he at the same time promoted public prosperity. He was one of the founders and upbuilders of the town of Franklin Grove, which in its commercial and financial development largely stands as a monument to his enterprise and progressiveness. He was equally active in support of projects for the moral progress of the community and thus it was that he left the impress of his individuality for good upon the community in which he long lived. He was a native of the grand duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, born June 19, 1829, in the village of Blodensheim. His parents were Philip and Appolonie (Kilger) Durkes who in the year 1842 left the fatherland and sailed for New Orleans whence they made their way up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, Missouri. There the father worked at the carpenter's trade, which he had previously learned and in 1845 he removed to Chicago, where his death occurred in 1858.

Conrad Durkes started in the business world as a clerk in a store in Chicago, where his salary was but ten dollars per month. He was thus employed until 1852, but in the meantime had worked his way steadily upward, advancement bringing him added duties and responsibilities, but also larger wages. In 1852, when twenty-three years of age, he went to Oregon, Illinois, where he took charge of a store, successfully conducting it for his employer for about a year and then purchasing it. He carried on the business



until 1855, when he removed to Franklin Grove, which in that year had been founded. He opened the first store in the new town and conducted a general mercantile enterprise until 1870, when he sold out. Once more, however, he opened up a general store in 1873 and conducted it until 1886.

Prosperity attended his efforts in that direction. He always had a well appointed establishment, carrying a large and carefully selected line of goods for a town of that size. This drew to him a liberal patronage and his financial resources increased as the years went by. After retiring from merchandising he established a private bank, which later led to the organization of the Franklin Grove Bank, which was capitalized in 1889 for twenty-five thousand dollars. He was its principal stockholder and his opinions carried weight in its management, making it one of the safe and reliable financial institutions of the county. Mr. Durkes also handled many estates as executor and it is well known that he never lost a cent of money for those whose interests were entrusted to his care. The steps in his orderly progression are easily discernible. He early realized that essential features in success are industry, perseverance and reliability and those qualities he so cultivated and utilized that he rose from a humble position in the business world to one of gratifying affluence and not only gained wealth, but also the high respect and honor of those with whom he came in contact.

In 1854 Mr. Durkes was united in marriage to Miss Eliza J. Fleming, who died in 1855. In 1858 he wedded Mary E. Jones, a daughter of Augustus and Mary Jones. Devotion to his family was one of his strong characteristics and he counted his greatest happiness, not the attainment of wealth, but the opportunity which it gave him of providing liberally for his family. He was also a very public-spirited man and his loyalty to the best interests of the community was well known. At an early day he served as president of the village board of Franklin Grove and filled other local offices, carefully guiding the destinies of the town during its formative period. He drafted the first laws of the village and made a chart for a drainage system, securing its adoption when he was a member of the city council. He was always a leader in any enterprise for the betterment of the community in which he lived and Franklin Grove owes its progress and upbuilding in large measure to him. He was also one of the drainage commissioners of the inlet drainage district, and closely studied every phase of the question so that his work in that connection was prac-



tical and resultant. In addition to his other public service he was for a time postmaster of Franklin Grove.

Mr. Durkes was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge at Franklin Grove and in his life exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft. He was reared in the German Reformed church, was a strong temperance worker and cooperated in every movement that tended to uphold high moral standards. He was generous to the poor and needy, cordial in his friendships and a pleasing personality and kindly spirit won him warm and enduring regard.

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### MRS. HARRIET ALLSLEDT.

Mrs. Harriet Allsledt is the proprietor of the Ashton Hotel at Ashton, and by her intelligent and capable management of the enterprise, has proven herself a business woman of rare executive ability, insight and resourcefulness. She is a native of England and came to America in her early days, locating at Kankakee, Illinois. After working in the asylum at that city for some time she established herself in business independently, buying a hotel. This enterprise she operated successfully for twelve years and then disposed of her interests and moved to Ashton, where she has since resided. She owns the Ashton Hotel, a fine three story hostelry, which she conducts along modern and progressive lines, her success being evident in the large patronage which she controls and in the popularity of her hotel with the traveling public.

Mrs. Allsledt has one son, Raymond, fifteen years of age. He is now attending school at Ashton. The mother is well and favorably known in this city, where her ability in business and her straightforward methods, together with her many excellent qualities of mind and character have gained her the esteem and goodwill of all who know her.

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### EDWIN S. ROSECRANS.

Edwin S. Rosecrans, proprietor of a well conducted clothing store in Ashton, was born in Boone county, Illinois, January 6, 1876. He is a son of Jacob D. and Harriett A. (Simpkins) Rosecrans, the former a native of New York state and the latter of

McHenry county, Illinois. The father has passed away and is survived by his wife.

Edwin S. Rosecrans acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Boone county and at the age of sixteen laid aside his books and began working for a sewing machine company. At the end of one year he resumed his studies, entering a high school, from which he was graduated at the age of nineteen. Following this he became connected with the Northwestern Railroad Company and remained in the employ of this corporation until he came to Ashton in 1908. Here he established himself in the clothing business and has since been connected with this line of work. He carries a large and well assorted stock and numbers among his patrons the most discriminating people of the city.

In 1901 Mr. Rosecrans married Miss Jessie Payler, a native of Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of a son, Donald P., who was born March 2, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Rosecrans are members of the Eastern Star and Mr. Rosecrans is connected with Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M., and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a republican in his political views but is not active as an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, which, being capably conducted, have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

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### XAVIER F. GEHANT.

Xavier F. Gehant has lived the life of the successful farmer. With thorough and comprehensive recognition of the demands placed upon the agriculturist, willingness to perform the difficult and arduous work of the fields, he has so directed his efforts and his energies that splendid results have been accomplished, yet the attainment of success has not been the whole aim of his life. He has done important public service in local offices and has in many ways manifested a public-spirited devotion to the general good. Lee county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Bradford township January 29, 1863. His parents were Modest Salastine and Olympia Frances (Chaon) Gehant, both of whom were natives of France. The former was born April 23, 1826, in the commune of Beulotte, canton of Faucogney, department of Haute-Saone. He emigrated to America on March 15, 1855, sailing on the vessel, Trumbull. Landing at

New York, he made his way westward to Franklin Grove, Illinois, where he arrived May 7, 1855. He immediately began farming, first as a wage earner and later on his own account. Subsequently he and his brother, Claude, purchased eighty acres and operated their farm with oxen. He continued active in agricultural pursuits to the time of his death on the 4th of February, 1904. He owned more than fourteen hundred acres of fine land at the time of his demise. His wife, born November 8, 1845, in Commune St. Souvere, Canton Luxeuil, department of Haute-Saone, accompanied her parents to America in 1858, arriving at New Orleans and thence proceeding by river and stage to Portsmouth, Ohio. She was married April 1, 1862, to Modest Salastine Gehant and then came to Lee county. They had a family of eight sons and six daughters and with the exception of two daughters all are yet living.

Xavier F. Gehant acquired a limited country school education but has become possessed of wide general information. He has been a close student of books along lines of research work, of social development and of political and religious history. The occupation to which he was reared he has always followed and has been a successful farmer, becoming well-to-do by reason of his thrift, industry and close application. In politics he is independent, voting as his judgment dictates. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, having attained the Knight Templar degree in the commandery at Dixon. At various times he has filled public offices. In early life he served as school director for nine years, was town tax collector for two years and town clerk for seven years in Viola township. He was also made a member of the board of drainage commissioners of the inlet swamp drainage district, having served for nine years with a three years' term yet to serve, having recently been reappointed.

Mr. Gehant was married in Dixon, February 12, 1885, to Miss Lena Mary Gallisath, a daughter of Francis and Mary Ann Gallisath, who are of German descent. Her father was born in the village of Ageshime, department of Haut-Rhin, or upper Alsace, Germany, August 20, 1828. He came to America in 1835, settling at Centerville, Pennsylvania, and in early life he worked on the farm and in the fields. In 1853 he married and afterward conducted a general store at Summerhill, Pennsylvania, for three years. In 1861 he became private secretary to Governor Girton to draft soldiers for the Civil war from Cambria county, Pennsylvania. He was mayor of the city of Cambria from 1862 until 1864

and later was on the relief committee which organized nine boroughs into a city known today as Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In 1864 he came to Illinois, settling in Lee Center township, Lee county, where he became a prosperous farmer. He died in December, 1910, when more than eighty-two years of age.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. X. F. Gehant were born six children: Grover W., George M., Rosalie F., Evelyn E., Edmund W. and Mary O., but the last named died in infancy.

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### ALBERT WOODS.

Albert Woods, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Lee county, has lived in Wyoming township since 1869 and during the intervening period has made many substantial contributions to general growth and development. He is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land on section 16 and has brought this from an unimproved tract into a model and productive farm. He was born in Bridgeport, Belmont county, Ohio, February 13, 1848, and is a son of George W. and Susan (Coss) Woods, the former of whom came to Lee county with his family in 1869, settling on a farm in Wyoming township. He improved this property and there made his home until 1900, when he passed away at the age of seventy-eight years. He and his wife became the parents of seven children besides the subject of this review: Catherine, who died in 1883 and is buried in Wyoming cemetery; Louisa, who became the wife of Reuben Furkins and who died in 1890, leaving four children; Mary R., who married Harry Norton, of Earlville; P. L., a farmer in Wyoming township; I. N., engaged in farming in the same locality; Effie, the wife of Owen Cornell, a farmer in Wyoming township; and Olive, the widow of Rev. Robert Shaftoe, of Paw Paw. The Woods family came originally from County Tyrone, Ireland, and was founded in America by William Woods, grandfather of the subject of this review, who came to America before the War of 1812 and fought during that conflict.

Albert Woods acquired his education in the public schools in the vicinity of Bridgeport, Ohio, laying aside his books at the age of twenty-one. He afterward came to Lee county and assisted his father with the work of the homestead, also engaging in farm labor in the employ of others. He continued thus until his marriage and then bought the property in Wyoming township upon which he



has since resided. It owes practically its entire value to his intelligent management, for it was swamp land when it came into his possession. Mr. Woods made his home in an old schoolhouse upon his place while he carried forward the work of draining the property and breaking the soil. He afterward replaced this dwelling by the modern residence now upon the farm and he has erected other substantial buildings, making his property attractive and valuable. He engages in mixed farming and has met with such gratifying success that he is ranked today among the representative agriculturists of the township.

In Bridgeport, Ohio, February 15, 1876, Mr. Woods was united in marriage to Miss Jane Cline, a daughter of William and Nancy Cline, both of whom passed away in 1890 and are buried in Weeks cemetery near Bridgeport. Mr. and Mrs. Woods have three children: Laura M., the wife of Armond Case, a farmer in Viola township, this county; Walter V., who is assisting his father; and Wilbur A., postmaster of Paw Paw.

Mr. Woods is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been through all the chairs of the local lodge and has been representative of the grand lodge and the grand encampment. He is a democrat in his political views and has served with credit and ability as a member of the board of school directors. He has witnessed a great deal of the development of Lee county and his work has been for many years an important factor in promoting agricultural development. He is a man of excellent qualities of character and holds the esteem and respect of a large circle of friends.

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### WILLIAM C. FABER.

William C. Faber owns a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-five acres in Wyoming township one-half mile south of Paw Paw and is ranked among the progressive and successful agriculturists of that locality. He was born in Bureau county, this state, February 21, 1867, and is a son of Peter and Margaret (Miller) Faber. The father was one of the early settlers in Bureau county and was connected with agricultural interests there for a number of years. He died in 1885 and was survived by his wife for more than a quarter of a century, her death occurring in 1912. Both are buried in Rest Land cemetery, Mendota, Illinois.





WILLIAM C. FABER



William C. Faber acquired his education in the public schools of Clarion township, Bureau county, attending until he was eighteen years of age. He afterward assisted with the work of the farm and after the father's death operated the homestead in the interest of his mother, at the same time raising blooded stock. In 1890 he went to Europe and after visiting various countries upon the continent returned to America, where he continued his travels for some time. Upon his return he settled in Illinois, engaging in the meat business in partnership with his brothers Christian and George. At this time he also invested extensively in land, buying farms in Iowa and Nebraska. Eventually, however, he disposed of all of these interests and purchased the farm in Wyoming township which he has since operated. He raises grain and stock and gives practically all of his attention to the conduct of the place, which reflects his careful and constant supervision.

At Paw Paw, Illinois, in 1896, Mr. Faber was united in marriage to Miss Eva Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Smith. Mrs. Faber died in 1907 and is buried in Paw Paw cemetery. She left four children: Helen M., a student in high school; Marlow L. C., also attending high school; Henry Clay; and Edmund E. On the 4th of December, 1912, Mr. Faber was again married, his second wife being Miss Emma Siegel, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Siegel, of Mitchell, Ontario. Mr. Faber is a member of the Yeomen and is independent in his political views, voting for men and measures rather than for parties. His success is the natural result of his well directed ambition, sound business judgment and practical methods and it places him in the front ranks of substantial and representative citizens of his community.

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### FRED G. SCHAFER.

Fred G. Schafer, one of the progressive and successful young farmers of Lee county, was born in Bradford township, October 14, 1886. He is a son of G. F. and Martha Schafer, natives of Illinois, now living retired in Ashton.

Fred G. Schafer was reared at home and from his early childhood aided his father with the farm work, becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the grain and stock. When he was twenty-three years of age he rented the home-

stead from his father and he has since operated this property, carrying forward its management along progressive and modern lines. In addition to the work of the fields he makes a specialty of raising and feeding hogs and his stock-raising interests are important and profitable.

In 1911 Mr. Schafer married Miss Neva Vogel, a daughter of Jacob and Lillian Vogel, the former now deceased and the latter a resident of Ashton township. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer have become the parents of a daughter, Minnetta. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Schafer gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is an ambitious, energetic and enterprising young man and his future success is assured.

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### GRAND DETOUR PLOW COMPANY.

This well known establishment was founded in 1837, at Grand Detour, Illinois, a little town situated in a horse-shoe bend in the beautiful Rock river, six miles above Dixon, by Major Andrus and John Deere, late of Moline, Illinois, both now deceased. They started what was styled a plow factory in a little blacksmith shop (such as may be seen at a country cross-road), and two forges were sufficient to meet their wants for some two years, when they became able to run an ordinary horse-power, for the purpose of turning the grindstone and fanning the furnace. The building in which those labor saving arrangements were located stood some forty rods from the "factory" proper and every plow ground and casting molded had to be carried one way or the other in the hand or on the shoulder, and the sight of the two proprietors lugging their work back and forth is recalled with interest, in view of the great prosperity which each of them, by means of the same hard work and close management ultimately attained. In this manner and under these disadvantages the business went on for about six years, when such success attended the enterprise that they were enabled to put in steam. From this time forward they continued, adding machinery and improvements and their progress was uninterrupted. However, there were no means of sending their plows through the country except by wagons and few markets except the farm house in even the best agricultural sections. Teams were loaded and sent over the country and substantial farmers were

supplied with plows which they sold through the community, reserving a handsome commission for their services. In 1847 Mr. Deere withdrew from the firm (which has experienced several changes, at one time presenting the array of Andrus, Deere, Tate & Gould), and with the experience he had acquired and with the means at his hand, started a plow factory at Moline, Illinois, which grew and prospered from the first and might with reason be termed the child of the Grand Detour works. He passed away in May, 1886, after a long and useful life at the age of eighty-two. The business was run for seven or eight years by Mr. Andrus alone, who was then joined by Colonel Amos Bosworth, who, in our late war, was known as Lieutenant Colonel of the Thirty-fourth Illinois, and who died in the service March, 1862.

In October, 1857, the factory which had been steadily growing and extending its limits, was burned down and upon the same site and upon the remnants of the old walls a new factory was erected. In August, 1863, Theron Cumins, Esq., the first president of the present company became one of the firm, which took the name of Andrus & Cumins. Under their administration the business was carried on until February, 1867, when Mr. Andrus died. Few men pass away more deeply and sincerely lamented than was Mr. Andrus. Upon his death the business passed into Mr. Cumins' hands and was by him conducted until June, 1869, when the late Colonel H. T. Noble of our city became interested therein, the firm name being T. Cumins & Company.

In the meantime Grand Detour had lost its pristine glory and its bright promise had flown forever. It was still a pleasant little village on Rock river, but about all there was in it was the Grand Detour Plow Works and their dependencies, while Dixon had acquired two of the largest railroads in the union and had grown to be a city of seven thousand inhabitants. The plow works, which in the first years turned out only seventy-five to a hundred plows per year, are now producing many thousands, and scattering them by means of the steam horse over the limitless west. Dixon was the nearest railroad point and as it cost thousands of dollars a year to transport this vast quantity of plows from the factory to the cars, Dixon was the place for these works and they were moved here in 1869.

In June, 1874, Mr. Dodge became interested in the business, under the firm name of Cumins, Noble & Dodge. In June, 1879, the business was incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois as the Grand Detour Plow Company, Theron Cumins, Henry



T. Noble, Orris B. Dodge and Charles H. Noble being the incorporators and officers of the company, the management and detail of the business being under their personal supervision for many years. April 15, 1891, Colonel Noble died, having only a short time before retired from active business to devote more time to public affairs, and by his death the community and company lost a most energetic and able friend. His brother, Charles Noble, continued actively in his place as vice president of the company. August 3, 1898, Mr. Cumins passed away after painful and protracted sickness.

In 1890 Mr. Lewmon D. Dement became associated with the business and shortly afterward was made secretary. He continued as such until by his untimely death, October 16, 1903, the company lost a clear-headed, ever faithful, hard-working official. It is worthy of mention that all who have been connected with the Grand Detour Plow Company have prospered.

In 1905 controlling interest in the company was acquired by the present officers, W. B. Brinton, president, and Bradford Brinton, secretary and treasurer. Several additions and improvements have been made in the plant since that time and the past year's business was the largest in the history of the corporation. The works are located on a spacious triangular piece of land between the depots of the Chicago & Northwestern and Illinois Central railroads, with switches from both roads running to the shops and warehouses. Since the location of the shops at Dixon, large additions to the factory and warehouses have been made from year to year, the location and arrangement of which are admirably adapted to the requirements of the business. New and improved machinery has been added from time to time whenever, by so doing, the quality and style of goods could be improved or the cost lessened. Thus year by year the business has grown, successfully weathering the financial panics which have destroyed many enterprises.

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### THE DIXON NATIONAL BANK.

Dixon has every reason to be proud of her financial institutions, for the record here made is a creditable one. With well defined plans and business affairs capably administered, the Dixon National Bank is today a stronger institution than ever before. It

was organized in September, 1871, and capitalized for one hundred thousand dollars. Its officers were: H. B. Jenks, president; John Dement, vice president; and Henry S. Lucas, cashier. Its officers at the present day are: J. C. Ayres, president; S. S. Dodge, vice president; A. P. Armington, cashier; and M. R. Forsyth, assistant cashier. The capital stock remains at one hundred thousand dollars, but there is now a surplus and undivided profits of one hundred and forty thousand dollars. The bank occupies a fine, modern, fireproof stone and brick building, fifty by seventy feet, five stories in height, the upper floors being used as offices, while the first floor is thoroughly equipped for the banking business. From its inception the bank has made a splendid record.

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### JOHN E. ECKHART.

John E. Eckhart is the owner of seventy-nine acres of land on section 18, Bradford township, and has been very successful in the cultivation of this property, being numbered among the representative and able agriculturists of Lee county. He was born in Lee Center, December 11, 1856, and is a son of Henry and Martha (Kilmer) Eckhart, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in the '40s and later took up their residence in Lee county, where the father bought land upon which he resided until his death. In their family were eleven children, eight of whom survive.

John E. Eckhart was reared at home and acquired his education in the district schools. When he was twenty-one years of age he began work as a farm laborer and continued thus for fifteen years thereafter. At the end of that time he rented land and after two years purchased the farm which he now owns. He has seventy-nine acres on section 18, Bradford township, and in its cultivation follows always the most practical and progressive methods with the result that the property has increased in value and productiveness year by year. It is today an excellent farm, reflecting the care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it.

In 1885 Mr. Eckhart was united in marriage to Miss Anna Nass, a native of Lee county and a daughter of John and Augusta Nass. The mother has passed away but the father survives. Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart have two children, Harry and Raymond, at home. The parents are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Eckhart gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has

served as school director and is progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, cooperating heartily in all movements for the general good. He is in all essential respects a self-made man, for the prosperity which he now enjoys has been won entirely through his own efforts. His success is founded upon hard work, industry and well directed ambition.

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### GEORGE F. O'MALLEY.

Since 1901 George F. O'Malley has been an active representative of commercial interests in Dixon and is an enterprising business man who in the conduct of his interests, follows straightforward methods that bring legitimate success. He was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1870, and is a son of Peter and Sebina (Healy) O'Malley, both of whom came to this county with their parents, the father arriving in 1852. He made farming his life work and for more than a half century was a resident of this county, his death here occurring August 4, 1913, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-five years. For about four years he had survived his wife, who died in 1909.

George F. O'Malley, born upon a farm in this county, early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, but he did not care to engage in tilling the soil as a life work and pursued a course in the Dixon college in order to qualify for other pursuits. He was graduated from that institution in 1895 and afterward was employed in various men's furnishing goods stores until he joined Edward Vaile in the establishment of the present firm of Vaile & O'Malley. They began dealing in shoes, clothing and men's furnishing goods and the business has steadily grown along substantial lines until they now have an excellent store, carrying a large stock of goods for which they find a ready sale, owing to their enterprising methods, their judicious advertising and their progressiveness.

In 1901 Mr. O'Malley was married to Miss Mary McIntyre of Dixon, and unto them have been born five children, three sons and two daughters, all of whom are yet living, namely: Peter M., Mary G., Frances S., George F., Jr., and Edward Albert. The parents hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. O'Malley belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. When age conferred upon him the right of franchise he

cast his ballot for the democratic party which he has since supported. He is a well known progressive young business man, and the establishment, of which he is one of the partners, ranks with the leading commercial enterprises of the city.

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## H. H. BADGER.

The possibility of success lies before every individual and the recognized power in America is that of industry. It has been through close application and well directed effort that H. H. Badger has become cashier of the First National Bank of Amboy, in which position he has continued since 1906, making for himself a creditable name in the financial circles of the county. His birth occurred here October 6, 1875, his parents being Warren H. and Emeline G. (Green) Badger. His grandparents came to Lee county in 1842 and were among the earliest of the pioneers. Colonel Badger, great-grandfather of our subject, was one of the first settlers in Illinois from the state of New York and the grandfather was the founder of the Binghampton Mill, in the operation of which Warren H. Badger eventually became engaged. This mill is the oldest in this part of the country and few were the families that antedated the arrival of the Badgers here. From early days representatives of the name have been very prominent in public work and in all that has pertained to the development and advancement of the district. The grandfather, Henry E. Badger, was at one time supervisor and postmaster and others of the name have ever borne active and helpful part in the work which has brought about the material prosperity and upbuilding of the county. Warren H. Badger was a public-spirited man but cared little for office. Both he and his wife still survive and are now residents of Dixon.

In the public schools of Amboy, H. H. Badger acquired his primary education, which was completed by a course in the Dixon Normal School, from which he was graduated in the class of 1892. He started in the business world as an employe in the office of Franklin MacVeagh & Company, wholesale grocers of Chicago, later returning to Amboy, where he entered his father's retail grocery store, being continuously connected with the business until 1899. He then turned his attention to banking, accepting a clerical position in the First National Bank. He was later



promoted to assistant cashier and eventually to his present position as cashier, in which capacity he has served since 1906. He is also one of the directors and stockholders of the institution and since becoming connected therewith his enterprise and progressiveness have constituted a feature in its continuous growth. He is also vice president of the Sanitary Creamery Company and secretary of the Colson Clothing Company.

On the 5th of October, 1910, at De Kalb, Mr. Badger was united in marriage to Miss Clara M. Heermans, a daughter of the Rev. N. W. and Clara J. (Webster) Heermans, the former pastor of the Episcopal church at De Kalb to the time of his death, which occurred in November, 1910. His widow now makes her home among her children. Mr. and Mrs. Badger have two children, a son, Warren H., and a daughter, Jane W.

Politically Mr. Badger is a republican. He is a Knight Templar of the Dixon Commandery, belonging to the chapter and blue lodge Masons at Amboy. He has likewise crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Rockford, Illinois, and he has membership in the Eastern Star, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors of America. He is vice president of the Amboy Commercial Club and his position in social, commercial and fraternal circles is one of well merited prominence. He readily recognizes opportunities and grasps them resolutely that the public may benefit thereby or that his individual success may be promoted. Laudable ambition and high purposes actuate him in every relation of life and his many sterling traits of character find proof in his extensive circle of friends.

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### JOHN P. HARVEY.

John P. Harvey, proprietor of the John P. Harvey Bridge & Iron Works at Amboy, is a native of Lee county. He was born in Amboy township, March 28, 1860, his parents being Michael and Ellen (McGill) Harvey. His father and mother came from Ireland to the new world, settling in New York, whence they removed to this county in the spring of 1850 and took up their abode in Amboy township on a tract of land which was wild prairie, having traveled by stage from Chicago to Lee Center. The father was a democrat in politics and though not an office





JOHN P. HARVEY



seeker, was always interested in the welfare and progress of the community. He died in 1866, his wife remaining on the old homestead until the time of her death, which occurred in 1903, when she was buried by his side in May township in what is known as the Sandy Hill cemetery.

John P. Harvey is the youngest of seven children. The family included but one daughter, Mary who died at Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1874 when twenty-six years of age. A brother, Charles died at the age of twenty-seven and both he and his sister are buried with their parents in Sandy Hill cemetery. The others of the family are Thomas E., attorney at law at Lead, South Dakota, he being one of the attorneys who tried the first civil suit in the Black Hills, and was also the first postmaster of Custer City which was one of the earlier mining camps of the Hills; James, a farmer of Marion township; Peter, a farmer of Denison, Iowa; and Michael, who occupies the old homestead.

The education of John P. Harvey was acquired in the country schools which he attended until seventeen years of age, after which he devoted his attention to the work of the home farm until he was twenty years of age, and then entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad as a bridge worker and was thus employed for four years. He then returned to the home farm, where he remained for a brief period, but subsequently became a fireman on the Illinois Central Railroad.

He was later appointed, and served for two years, as a police officer, afterwards serving as marshal of Amboy for eight years. He next became an employe in the Charles C. Jacobs Bridge & Iron Works, in which he was advanced to the position of manager, acting in that capacity for several years before purchasing the business in 1908. He is now at the head of one of the important industrial enterprises of Amboy, enjoying a business which is constantly growing in extent and importance. His long training in mechanical lines has well qualified him for the important duties which now devolve upon him and which have brought to him a substantial measure of success.

At Amboy on the 6th of January, 1885, Mr. Harvey was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Sparks, a daughter of Michael and Bridget (King) Sparks. Her father, who came to Lee county in the '70s was an employe of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Both he and his wife have passed away and their remains were interred in St. Patrick's cemetery at Amboy. Mr. Harvey owns two residence properties which he has recently remodelled.

He also built and still owns a fifty by one hundred foot brick building which is used by Edmund Neville as a garage.

In politics he is a democrat and for six years he filled the office of alderman, exercising his official prerogatives in such an admirable and beneficial manner that he was chosen mayor of the city and continued in that position for four years. His public service, like his private life, has been characterized by intense activity, looking to the betterment of the things under his control and as mayor and business man he has enjoyed the confidence and good-will of the general public.

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### PAUL REIS.

Paul Reis, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Lee county, is engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon one hundred and twenty acres of fine land on section 11, Sublette township. He is a native son of this locality, born in 1857, his parents being Martin and Katherine (Theis) Reis, both of whom have passed away, the former dying October 7, 1894, and the latter October 14, 1897. Both are buried in the Perkin's Grove cemetery, Sublette township. The father was one of the pioneer settlers in Lee county and engaged in farming here at a time when Chicago was the nearest market. He was obliged to haul his grain there and always spent more than a week upon the journey.

Paul Reis acquired his education in the public schools of his native township and laid aside his books at the age of fourteen. He afterward assisted his father with the work of the farm for thirteen years and then came into possession of the homestead, which he has since operated. This comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is well improved in every particular, being equipped with a comfortable residence and good outbuildings and reflecting everywhere the care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it. Mr. Reis engages in mixed farming, raising grain and keeping about twenty hogs, twelve head of cattle and five horses.

In Sublette township, in 1884, Mr. Reis married Miss Kate Kliyla, a daughter of Jacob and Louise (Young) Kliyla, both of whom have passed away and are buried in West Brooklyn. Mr. and Mrs. Reis have become the parents of a son, Romer P., who is assisting his father. Mr. Reis is a member of the Catholic

church and a democrat in his political beliefs. His life has always been in close conformity with high principles and his record is a credit to a respected and worthy name.

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### CLARENCE C. BROOKS.

Clarence C. Brooks is one of the younger members of the Dixon bar, practicing successfully, however, as junior partner in the firm of Brooks & Brooks, his associate being his brother H. A. Brooks. He represents one of the old families of the county, his birth having occurred in Marion township, April 12, 1879, his parents being Benjamin F. and Susan O. (Morris) Brooks. No event of special importance occurred to vary for him the routine of farm life, his youth being spent upon the old homestead. He supplemented his public-school education by a course in Dixon College and was graduated with the class of 1903. Desiring to follow the profession in which his brother had already embarked, he took up the study of law with him and in 1906 was admitted to the bar. He was then admitted to partnership by his brother and the firm of Brooks & Brooks, general practitioners, occupies today a prominent position among leading lawyers of the city. He has ever recognized the fact that industry is just as essential to success in the professions as in commercial circles and close application and unfaltering perseverance, therefore, have been elements in securing his advancement. Like his brother, Mr. Brooks is a member of the Odd Fellows and has also filled the chairs in the local lodge, being now a past noble grand.

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### GEORGE J. DOWNING.

Success flauntingly plays before the dreamer but succumbs when arrayed against determined effort, unfaltering perseverance, laudable ambition and honorable purpose. An analyzation of the life record of George J. Downing shows that these qualities have constituted salient features in his history and brought him to his present enviable position in mercantile and financial circles of Lee county. He is now proprietor of one of the leading grocery stores of Dixon and also the owner of valuable business property.



Mr. Downing was born in Kane county, Illinois, in 1875, and is a son of Major O. J. Downing. He supplemented his public-school education by a three years' collegiate course in the Dixon Normal School and then made his initial step in the business world as an employe of J. H. Morris & Sons, grocers, with whom he remained for eight years, his long connection with that establishment plainly indicating his fidelity and capability. Ambitious, however, to engage in business on his own account, he carefully saved his earnings and in 1900 opened a general grocery store, handling a full line of both staple and fancy groceries. The tasteful arrangement of the establishment, the reasonable prices and his reliable business methods have brought to him a growing patronage and his success is most gratifying. As prosperity has attended his efforts Mr. Downing has become interested in real estate. He erected one of the largest buildings in Dixon at Nos. 110-116 First street. It has a frontage of one hundred and one feet and the main floor is used for an express office, garage and steam rubber works, while on the second floor is the armory.

On the 13th of September, 1909, Mr. Downing was united in marriage to Miss Golda Coburn, of Elgin, Illinois, and they have many warm friends in Dixon, the number continually increasing as the circle of their acquaintance widens. Mr. Downing is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and also has membership with the Knights of the Maccabees and the Knights of Pythias. He has never figured prominently in public connections aside from business, preferring always to concentrate his energies upon his commercial interests which, capably directed, have constituted the foundation and source of his success. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished and he enjoys in large measure the confidence and respect of colleagues and contemporaries.

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#### CHRISTIAN C. FABER.

Christian C. Faber is one of the progressive and successful business men of Paw Paw, where he has been established in business since twenty-two years of age, having now conducted a meat market on Main street for twenty-eight years with such marked success that he has come to be recognized as one of the most substantial men of his city. A native of Illinois, he was born in Clar-

ion township, Bureau county, on December 26, 1863, his parents being Peter and Margaret (Miller) Faber. The father was one of the early settlers in Bureau county, being highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him, and there passed away in 1884, his wife surviving him for more than a quarter of a century, passing away in 1912. Both are buried in Rest Land cemetery, Mendota, Illinois. The Faber family is of German extraction.

Christian C. Faber attended district school in Clarion township, discontinuing his lessons at the age of sixteen years. He then assisted his father with the work on the farm, giving the benefit of his labors to his parents until twenty-two years of age. His father having passed away in the meantime, he in 1885 made a removal to Lee county and upon coming to Paw Paw associated himself with his brother George in the meat business, which he has ever since conducted with most gratifying financial results. George Faber has retired from the business and our subject is now sole proprietor, conducting business in a handsome building on Main street. His progressive methods, his watchfulness as to most sanitary conditions, the quality of the goods which he handles and his universal politeness have all combined to build up a trade which is representative and gratifying in proportions. It is, therefore, but natural that as the years have passed financial independence has come to him and that he is today one of the foremost business men in the city.

At Paw Paw, November 20, 1889, Mr. Faber married Miss Myrtle I. Smith, a daughter of Henry and Louisa (Adams) Smith, numbered among the early pioneer farming people of Lee county. The father passed away October 8, 1907, and is buried at Cottage Hill cemetery, but his wife survives and makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Faber. The latter is the mother of one son now living, Leon A., who is at present attending school. Clifton S., another son, died in October, 1898, at the age of five years, and was laid to rest in Wyoming township cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Faber occupy a commodious residence, which was erected by our subject and where both he and his wife extend a hearty welcome to their many friends.

In his political views Mr. Faber is a democrat, upholding the candidates and measures of that party at the polls, although he has never cared to enter the political arena in the role of office seeker. Yet, he is public-spirited in the best meaning of American citizenship and gives his support to all measures which will make for the betterment of conditions for the general public or

promote advancement and growth in his city and county. In religious faith he is a member of the German Lutheran church and fraternally belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, carrying the brotherly principles promulgated by these organizations into his everyday life. He is highly respected by all who know him as a shrewd, able business man and a valued and public-spirited citizen, who is as considerate of the interests of others and the general welfare as he is concerned in his own success.

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### H. C. BARTH, M. D. C.

Dr. H. C. Barth, veterinary surgeon and proprietor of the Barth Veterinary Hospital at Amboy, arrived in this county in 1905 and at once entered upon the active practice of his profession. He was then a young man of but twenty-three years, his birth having occurred at Freeport, Illinois, May 8, 1882, his parents being John and Minnie (Strate) Barth, who were of German lineage. The father formerly engaged in dealing in horses but is now living retired in Freeport.

After acquiring his primary education in the public schools Dr. Barth entered the College of Commerce at the age of sixteen years and was graduated therefrom in 1898. He afterward became connected with the veterinary hospital at Freeport, where he remained until, having determined to qualify for the profession, he became a student in the Veterinary College at Chicago, being graduated therefrom in 1905, at which time he received the diploma of the school. He at once came to Amboy and entered upon the active practice of his profession. He had no capital whatever but made such success that after four years he was able to build a hospital. He is well informed concerning the practice of veterinary surgery and his pronounced ability has made him one of the leading representatives of the profession in Lee county.

In Amboy, on the 16th of October, 1907, Dr. Barth was married to Miss Alice June, a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth June, the former a pioneer farmer of this county. They have one child, a daughter, Lucille. In politics Dr. Barth is independent. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, holding membership in both the lodge and chapter at Amboy, and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. These

associations indicate much of the nature of his interests and the rules that govern his conduct. The following of these rules has made him a man whom to know is to fully respect.

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### S. S. DODGE.

S. S. Dodge is now living retired in Dixon but for many years was a prominent representative of mercantile interests in this city, where he took up his abode in 1868. He was then a young man, his birth having occurred in Ohio, December 2, 1841, his parents being Almeron and Sarah (Baldwin) Dodge. In the year 1844 they removed westward to Illinois, settling at Roscoe. The father was a son of Seymour Dodge, who was born in New York but went to Ohio at an early day. After his arrival in Illinois Almeron Dodge carried on general agricultural pursuits and both he and his wife spent their last days in Roscoe.

Reared in his father's home, S. S. Dodge pursued his education in the schools of Roscoe, passing through consecutive grades until he completed the high school course there. He was but nineteen years of age at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. Soon after hostilities began he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company L, Eighth Illinois Cavalry. In the spring of 1862 he was wounded near Richmond and his injuries were so severe that he was honorably discharged and returned to his home.

When he had sufficiently recovered Mr. Dodge went to Rockford, Illinois, and there learned the jeweler's trade which he followed at that place until 1868. He then came to Dixon and opened a jewelry store, of which he was the proprietor for a third of a century. Throughout the entire period he ranked as one of the leading and enterprising merchants of the city. Ever recognizing the fact that honesty is the best policy, he never deviated from a course which his judgment sanctioned as right between himself and his fellowmen and the integrity of his business methods was never questioned. As he prospered he extended his efforts into other fields, becoming one of the stockholders and directors of the Dixon National Bank many years ago, while for the past eight years or more he has been vice president, succeeding to that office upon the death of Mr. Cummins.



On the 1st of July, 1873, Mr. Dodge was united in marriage to Miss Hattie E. Davis, of Dixon. She is a member of the Methodist church, while Mr. Dodge's membership relations are with the Masonic fraternity and the Grand Army of the Republic. He has attained high rank in the former and has been honored with many offices in different branches of the order, being past high priest of the chapter and past eminent commander of the commandery. He also attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the Freeport consistory and crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. His political indorsement is given to the republican party. He has lived to see the fulfillment of the hopes of his youth and early manhood. There have been no spectacular phases in his life history but there are various elements worthy of emulation. To know one's duty and do it, to deal faithfully and honorably with one's fellowmen, this is the life of an honorable man. Moreover, his record proves conclusively that success and an untarnished name may be won simultaneously.

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#### CHRISTIAN GROSS.

Christian Gross, one of the extensive landowners of China township living retired in Franklin Grove, is numbered among the representative and progressive citizens of that community. He is interested in everything that pertains to the general advancement and growth and his influence is a tangible force for good along many lines. He was born in China township, this county, March 22, 1854, and is a son of Reinhart and Martha (Reinhart) Gross, natives of Germany. The mother came to America in 1846 and the father one year later. Their marriage occurred in Lee county in 1852 and afterward the father purchased land, buying eighty acres in China township and paying for this property a dollar and a quarter per acre. He afterward added to his holdings and became in time one of the representative farmers of the locality. He and his wife became the parents of six children, of whom four are yet living.

Christian Gross remained upon his father's farm until he was twenty-one years of age and then began his independent career, farming upon rented land for one year. At the end of that time he bought one hundred and sixty acres in China township and for many years thereafter gave his time and attention to the manage-







CHRISTIAN GROSS



MRS. CHRISTIAN GROSS



ment of his farming interests. From time to time he added to his holdings, which comprise today five hundred and twenty-nine acres, all in China township. Mr. Gross continued active in the cultivation of this property until 1903, when he retired and moved into Franklin Grove, where he has since resided. He is prominently identified with a number of important enterprises here and is well and favorably known in business circles. For the past ten years he has been manager and treasurer of the Farmers Telephone Company and for twenty years he has been a member of the board of directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is a director of the Franklin Grove Bank and interested in other enterprises of this character.

In 1875 Mr. Gross was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Hotzel, a native of Lee county and a daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Eckhart) Hotzel, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1847, on the same ship which brought the father of the subject of this review, and they made the journey from Chicago to Lee county in the same wagon. Mr. and Mrs. Gross became the parents of four children: Lillian, the wife of Jerry Dysart; R. C.; F. C.; and a child who died in infancy. The parents are members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Gross is a member of Franklin Grove Lodge, No. 504, K. P., and has been through all the chairs in that organization. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been very active in the affairs of the township. He served on the school board for a number of years and was for six years mayor of Franklin Grove, giving to the community a straightforward and progressive administration. He is at present township supervisor and is doing his usual capable and farsighted work in this office. A resident of Lee county since his birth, he has become widely known within its borders. He merits the confidence and respect of all who know him and is numbered among the substantial citizens of the county.

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### THE UNION STATE BANK.

The Union State Bank of Dixon has become one of the strong, safe and reliable financial institutions of northern Illinois. It was organized on the 8th of January, 1902, with I. B. Countryman as president, C. J. Rosbrook, vice president, and R. M. Moore, cashier. The bank was capitalized for fifty thousand dollars and a general



banking business is conducted. The bank building was erected, twenty-four by eighty feet, of stone and brick. It is two stories in height, the upper floor being used for offices. Three per cent interest is paid on time deposits and the established rate upon savings. The capital still remains as at the beginning, but there is today a surplus of fifteen thousand dollars. There has been no change in the officers save that Harry L. Fordham succeeded Mr. Moore as cashier of the bank in 1911. Beside the officers C. H. Noble, E. J. Countryman, C. H. Stiteley and C. H. McKenney constitute the board of directors. The bank is now in a most flourishing condition, its total resources amounting to three hundred and seventy-seven thousand, seven hundred and seventy dollars and seventy-seven cents. Its loan department is an important paying branch of the business, its entire loans amounting to two hundred and eighty-two thousand, nine hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents. Keen business discrimination and sound judgment on the part of the bank officials result in the judicious placing of these loans, which thereby furnish a gratifying annual revenue to the bank. In fact, the entire business of the institution is in a flourishing condition and the policy followed is one which commends the bank to a liberal patronage. The interests of depositors are most carefully safeguarded and in this is found one of the features of the success of the institution.

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#### W. F. DEGNER.

During the entire period of his active life W. F. Degner has been associated with farming and stock-raising interests of Lee county and his success is evident today in his ownership of one of the finest farms in Bradford township. He was born in Lee county, October 23, 1873, and is a son of Fredrick and Sophia (Hotzel) Degner, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Lee county. The record of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Degner is found elsewhere in this work.

W. F. Degner was reared at home and acquired his education in the district schools of Lee county. In his childhood he aided in the operation of the homestead and when he began his independent career turned his attention to farming, renting a tract of land upon which he resided for six years. At the end of that time he bought the farm which he now occupies. He has one hundred and twenty

acres on sections 28 and 29, Bradford township, and has greatly improved this property, which gives every evidence of the care of a progressive and practical agriculturist. In addition to general farming Mr. Degner makes a specialty of feeding cattle and hogs and his stock-raising interests are extensive and important.

In 1900 Mr. Degner married Miss Mary K. Albrecht, a native of Lee county and a daughter of Burchart Albrecht. Mr. and Mrs. Degner have three children, Carl G., Raymond A. and Mabelle C. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Degner gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is now serving as school director and discharges the duties of this office in a capable and progressive way. He is a stockholder in the Amboy State Bank and connected fraternally with Lee Center Lodge, No. 1036, M. W. A., of Lee Center. He is accounted one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of Bradford township and is well and favorably known throughout his native county.

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#### WILLIAM AUCHSTETTER.

William Auchstetter is now living retired at West Brooklyn but for a number of years was actively engaged in farming in Lee county. Since 1902 he has occupied his present home in the town, where he has valuable property holdings that return to him a gratifying income. His birth occurred in Lee Center township, February 6, 1870, his parents being Joseph and Mary (Thies) Auchstetter. The father came from Germany about 1845 and, making his way into the interior of the country, settled in Lee county. There were no railroads between Chicago and this district at that time. He was one of the pioneers of Lee county, which he found to be largely a tract of undeveloped prairie at the time of his arrival. Only here and there had settlements been made and much of the land was still in its primitive condition. Mr. Auchstetter purchased an undeveloped tract which he began converting into tillable land, bringing it ultimately under a high state of cultivation. He was a popular man in the neighborhood and was recognized as a faithful friend and a devoted husband. He reached the venerable age of eighty-four years, passing away in 1908, and his wife departed this life the following year, at the age of seventy-five. Their religious faith was that of the Catholic church.

William Auchstetter acquired his education in the country schools, which he attended until he reached the age of sixteen years. He afterward assisted his father upon the home farm until attaining his majority, when his father gave him one hundred and twenty acres of land. He then began the development of the property and by purchase added to it a fifteen acre tract. At length he and his brother inherited the old homestead but afterward William Auchstetter sold his interest in the farm to his brother Joseph and purchased the property which he now owns. This he developed, transforming the wild land into productive fields, and everything about the place came to indicate the practical methods and progressive spirit of the owner. In 1902 he retired from active farm life and erected a residence in West Brooklyn which is one of the fine homes of the town. The same spring he purchased one of the business blocks in West Brooklyn and his property interests now return to him a substantial income in rentals.

On the 23d of February, 1897, in West Brooklyn, Mr. Auchstetter was united in marriage to Miss Susie Gehant, a daughter of Modest and Olympia (Chaon) Gehant, the former a pioneer farmer of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Auchstetter have a daughter, Flossie, who is attending school. The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Auchstetter belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political support is given to the democratic party. As the years have passed he has won success, which is largely due to his utilization of the opportunities that have come to him. He has always lived in Lee county and the energy and capability which he has displayed in the management of his business affairs have been the source of his present prosperity, enabling him now to live retired.

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#### E. B. OWENS, M. D.

Dr. E. B. Owens, a general medical practitioner whose skill in surgery has also led him to specialize somewhat along that line, came to Dixon in 1891 and has resided here continuously since, covering a period of about twenty-two years. He is a native of La Salle county, born on the 3d of May, 1867. His parents, Daniel W. and Mary (Silverthorn) Owens, were both natives of Pennsylvania and were farming people. Removing westward, they settled in La Salle county and thus Dr. Owens was reared in this state.

He supplemented his public-school training by a course in the Normal School of Bureau county, Illinois, from which he was graduated, and next entered the Northwestern University as a medical student, completing his professional training there in 1890. He afterward spent a year as resident physician and surgeon in St. Luke's Hospital of Chicago, thus gaining a practical experience and training such as can be obtained in no other way than through hospital practice. In 1891 he arrived in Dixon and has here since remained. His knowledge of the principles and science of medicine is comprehensive and exact and his training and interest in his profession have well qualified him to deal with many of the diseases to which flesh is heir. He has done considerable surgical work and specializes along this line, in which he has gained marked proficiency. He belongs to the local, state and national medical associations and thus keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession.

In 1894 Dr. Owens was united in marriage to Miss Eleanor Isett, a native of Pennsylvania, and unto them have been born two children, Elizabeth and Katherine. Dr. Owens votes with the republican party and keeps well informed concerning the significant and vital questions of the times. He and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church and during their residence in Dixon they have gained many friends among the church people and in social circles at large.

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### WILLIAM J. McCARTY.

William J. McCarty, a representative of an honored pioneer family of Lee county, devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent success, operating a valuable farm of three hundred acres, known as Clear View Farm, on section 14, Marion township. His birth occurred on this farm on the 25th of September, 1876, his parents being William R. and Ruth A. (Conderman) McCarty. The father, who passed away on the 28th of December, 1898, lies buried in the Prairie Repose cemetery of Amboy, but the mother survives and makes her home with our subject.

William J. McCarty attended school in his native county until sixteen years of age and subsequently spent his entire time in assisting his father with the work of the home place. Since the time of the latter's demise in 1898, our subject has remained at



home with his mother in Marion township, where he has carried on general agricultural pursuits continuously and successfully since. He is engaged in mixed farming and the raising of horses, cattle and hogs. The residence and some other buildings which stand on the property were erected by his grandfather, an early pioneer, who settled on this farm in 1850, and became an early agriculturist and esteemed citizen of the community.

In politics Mr. McCarty is a staunch republican, and for two years he ably discharged the duties devolving upon him in the capacity of clerk of Marion township. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. A man of genuine personal worth and high standards of integrity, he commands the sincere regard and esteem of all who come in contact with him and in the course of his lifelong residence in Lee county has proved his loyalty in citizenship, his reliability in business and his fidelity to all the ties and obligations of life.

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### HENRY KERSTEN.

Henry Kersten is one of the self-made men of Lee county. He had no special assistance when he started out in life on his own account, but in the course of years, through his well directed efforts and careful management, he has become the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land in Reynolds township. It was in this township that he was born, March 1, 1864, his parents being George and Christina Kersten, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America in the '50s and journeyed across the country until they reached Lee county, Illinois, where the father still makes his home, residing now in Ashton. The mother passed away in the late '70s, after which George Kersten married a second and third time, his third union being with Mrs. Emma Brundenburg. By his first marriage there were eleven children and by the second marriage there were three children, of whom two yet survive.

Henry Kersten spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and after attaining his majority started out in the world on his own account. He then rented land for four years, after which he purchased the farm upon which he now resides, comprising one hundred and sixty acres on section 16,





HENRY KERSTEN AND FAMILY



Reynolds township. From the beginning his success has continued, owing to the fact that he has never been afraid of hard work. He has labored diligently and persistently and has added to his holdings from time to time. He purchased eighty acres on section 8 and afterward invested in one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Reynolds township. He has now altogether four hundred acres of rich and valuable land worth at least two hundred dollars per acre. He displays excellent management in the use of the fields, producing therefrom the best possible crops owing to his progressive methods of farming. He rotates his crops, keeps his soil in good condition and the harvests which he annually garners bring to him a good financial return.

On the 22d of March, 1888, Mr. Kersten was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Newman, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, and is a daughter of John and Martha (Wagner) Newman, both of whom were natives of Germany and came to the United States at an early date. They settled in Lee county, Illinois, and here continued to make their home until they were called from this life. Mr. and Mrs. Kersten became the parents of five children: Pearl Caroline, Harry J., Elmer H., Ervin H. and Rosa M. The parents hold membership in the Evangelical church, and Mr. Kersten is actively interested in its work. He is now serving as one of the church trustees and is treasurer of the Sunday school. He votes with the republican party and has filled the office of pathmaster. He has also been school director and is interested in everything that pertains to the general welfare along the lines of material, intellectual and moral progress.

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### JOHN P. DEVINE.

The bar of Lee county finds a worthy representative in John P. Devine, who has practiced continuously in Dixon since 1905. He came to the starting point of his career well equipped with certain qualities indispensable to the successful lawyer—a well trained mind, the habit of careful analysis and logical reasoning and a recognition of the fact that devotion to a client's interests is one of the elements of enduring success. Lee county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred within her borders on the 22d of January, 1878. His father, James Devine, was born in Ireland and on coming to Illinois settled in Whiteside county

in 1865. Later in the '60s he removed to this county and took up the occupation of farming which he followed for a number of years. His success in tilling the soil brought to him a handsome competence that now enables him to live retired. In early manhood he wedded Mary A. Gugerty, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1854 and is a daughter of Thomas Gugerty, one of the pioneer settlers of this county.

John P. Devine pursued his education in the schools of Dixon and is a graduate of the literary and law department of Dixon College. He completed his law course with the class of 1903 and was admitted to the bar in 1905, when he opened an office and has since engaged in practice in Dixon. As the years have passed he has gained a distinctively representative clientage and he is regarded as an able and faithful minister in the temple of justice, being careful at all times to conform his practice to a high standard of professional ethics, never seeking to lead the court astray in matters of fact or law and presenting his points logically and forcefully.

Mr. Devine has always voted with the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and has become a recognized leader in its local ranks. He is now a member of the state legislature, to which he was elected in 1910, and to the vital questions which come up for settlement he gives his earnest consideration.

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### FREDRICK C. DEGNER.

Lee county was called upon to mourn the loss of one of its early residents when Fredrick C. Degner died on his farm in Bradford township in 1893. He had lived in this part of Illinois since 1866 and for a long period was influentially connected with agricultural interests here, developing one of the finest farms in this locality. He was born in Germany, June 29, 1843, and he came to America in 1866, locating in Lee county, Illinois, where two years later he bought a farm. For many years thereafter he continued to make his home upon this property, carrying forward the work of improvement and development with characteristic energy. He provided the place with a comfortable residence and substantial buildings and was very successful in its conduct, becoming one of the best known farmers and stock-raisers in this locality.

He died upon the property May 15, 1893, and was laid to rest in the Woodside cemetery, Lee Center. He was a man of many sterling traits of character, reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and straightforward in all relations of life. His death was, therefore, sincerely regretted in this township, where for so many years he had made his home and where he had contributed in substantial measure to general advancement.

In Lee county, Illinois, Mr. Degner was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Hotzel, who was born in China township, this county, a daughter of Conrad and Anna E. (Eckhart) Hotzel, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1847 and located in Lee county, where they resided until their deaths. Mr. and Mrs. Degner became the parents of ten children: Carl, who died at the age of four; Anna, the wife of Emrich Schnell, of Minnesota; W. F.; Mary, who married U. G. Fuls, a resident of Whiteside county, Illinois; Martha, the deceased wife of John Rupel; Emma, who married August Geyer, of Lee county; two children who died in infancy; Kathryn, who married Walter Dunseth, of Amboy; and Nellie H., a music teacher. Mrs. Degner has also reared a granddaughter, Blanch Rupel. She owns the homestead of eighty acres in Bradford township and resides upon it. She has many friends in this part of Lee county, where her character and worth are known and recognized.

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### ABRAM K. TRUSDELL.

Abram K. Trusdell has for forty-six years been a member of the Dixon bar and throughout the entire period his practice has been extensive and of an important character. He has ever been remarkable among lawyers for the wide research and patient care with which he has prepared his cases, while an excellent presence, an earnest, dignified manner and comprehensive knowledge of the law have been the strong features in his effectiveness as an advocate. He is likewise closely and prominently connected with various business corporations which have had to do with the material development and financial history of the city. A native of Sussex county, New Jersey, he is a son of Jesse and Jane (Givens) Trusdell, the former a farmer by occupation.

It was in the year 1861 that Abram K. Trusdell arrived in Amboy, Illinois, and for four years he engaged in studying law under



the direction of his brother B. H. Trusdell. On the 7th of February, 1867, he arrived in Dixon and, having qualified for practice, opened a law office. Along with those qualities indispensable to the lawyer—a keen, rapid, logical mind, plus the business sense and a ready capacity for hard work—he brought to the starting point of his career certain rare gifts—eloquence of language and a strong personality. The zeal with which he has devoted his energies to the profession, the careful regard evinced for the interests of his clients and an assiduous and unrelaxing attention to all the details of his cases have brought him a large business and made him very successful in its conduct. Moreover, Mr. Trusdell has become identified with various corporations, having been one of the organizers of the Dixon Water Company, of which he is now the president, and he is also president of the Nachusa House Company. He is likewise a director of the Dixon National Bank and in all business matters his judgment is sound, his sagacity keen and his enterprise unfaltering.

Mr. Trusdell was married, on the 5th of December, 1871, to Miss Emma Ruth Orvis, of Dixon, a daughter of Abraham Orvis, formerly a practicing physician of Rochester, New York. Mr. Trusdell is a member of the Episcopal church and his fraternal relations are with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Throughout the county he is spoken of in terms of admiration and respect. His life has been so varied in its activity, so honorable in its purposes, so far-reaching and beneficial in its effects that it has become an integral part of the history of the city.

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#### WILLIAM C. McWETHY, D. D. S.

Dr. William C. McWethy, who since March, 1909, has engaged in the practice of dentistry in Dixon, his native city, was born in 1871, his parents being J. H. and Hattie E. (Sheldon) McWethy, who had been residents of this state for a decade at the time of the birth of their son William. The father was a farmer by occupation and dependent upon that pursuit in order to provide for his family. In his later life he retired, for in tilling the soil he had won a substantial competence that enabled him to spend the evening of his life in rest from labor and yet enjoy all of the comforts and some of the luxuries which go to make life worth the living. His political support was given to the republican party



DR. WILLIAM C. MCWETHY



and both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church of Dixon from its organization until they were called to their final rest. They were ever loyal to its teachings and contributed generously to its support. Both have now passed away.

Dr. McWethy supplemented his common-school education by a course in the Steinmann Institute and then in preparation for a professional career entered the Northwestern University as a dental student and was graduated in 1899. He practiced in Chicago for a short time and afterward removed to Ashton, Illinois, where he remained until March, 1909, when he came to Dixon and opened an office. He has a pleasant suite of rooms well appointed in all of the equipments necessary for the practice of dentistry according to the most modern and progressive methods. He keeps in touch with the advancement that is being continually made in the profession and he possesses the mechanical skill and ingenuity as well as the scientific knowledge which must go hand in hand with business ability in order that a dentist may win success.

In 1900 Dr. McWethy was married to Miss Bertha L. Hubbard, a native of Dixon and a daughter of M. D. Hubbard, who was one of the early settlers of the county, having been brought by his parents to this section of the state in his infancy. Mr. Hubbard is now deceased. Unto Dr. and Mrs. McWethy has been born a son, Donald Sheldon. Politically Dr. McWethy is a progressive republican and fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Elks and the Woodmen. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church and are interested and active in its work and liberal in its support. Their many sterling traits of heart and mind have gained them popularity and high regard and they have an extensive circle of friends in this city, in which they have spent practically their entire lives.

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### CONRAD HEIBENTHAL.

Conrad Heibenthal owns a farm of one hundred and eighty-seven acres on section 24, Ashton township, and is a worthy representative of agricultural interests of this locality, for he follows always the most progressive and practical methods and in the cultivation of his property has surrounded himself with a gratifying measure of success. He was born in Bradford township November

6, 1860, and is a son of Charles and Martha Heibenthal, natives of Germany. They came to America in the early '40s, and located in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away. Seven children were born to their union of whom six are yet living.

Conrad Heibenthal was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools of Bradford township. He remained upon his father's farm until he was twenty-three years of age and then rented land for some years, after which he bought a farm in Bradford township. This property he developed and improved for nineteen years thereafter, making it one of the finest farms in the vicinity. When he disposed of it he bought the farm in Ashton township, upon which he now resides. This comprises one hundred and eighty-seven acres on section 24 and under Mr. Heibenthal's direction has become an attractive and valuable property. It is equipped with substantial buildings and the fields are in a high state of cultivation, yielding bountiful harvests annually.

In 1884 Mr. Heibenthal was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Nauman, a native of Bradford township and a daughter of John and Martha (Wagner) Nauman, natives of Germany. The parents came to America at an early date and both died in this country. In their family were eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Heibenthal have two children: Charles F., a resident of Lee county; and Cora A., at home. The parents are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Heibenthal gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served in the office of school director and he is at all times progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, taking an intelligent interest in community affairs.

He has spent his entire life in Lee county and his character and accomplishments have commended him to the respect and esteem of all who know him.

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### W. F. STRONG.

W. F. Strong is the capable and popular head of Strong's College of Music at Dixon, an institution which, though established at a comparatively recent date, has made substantial growth and won a well merited reputation as one of the art colleges of the state. Mr. Strong has devoted his entire life to music, developing the talent with which nature endowed him, and is as widely known



perhaps as a composer and publisher as an instructor. He was born in Akron, Indiana, November 11, 1857, and is a son of Andrew and Sarah (Osgood) Strong, both of whom were natives of New York and were pioneers of Indiana. The father was a carriage maker, which trade he followed in the middle west.

Spending his youthful days under the parental roof, W. F. Strong pursued his education in the public schools of Indiana and in the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso before concentrating his energies upon the development of his musical talent as a student in the Cincinnati College of Music. He afterward became a student in the Chicago Musical College and each year has marked his progress in the art. He specializes in piano, violin and harmony. His life has been devoted to teaching and composition and he has published much music, writing and compiling books for both the piano and violin that are now largely used by music teachers.

Mr. Strong organized a college of music in Shenandoah, Iowa, in connection with the Western Normal College, which he conducted for seven years, after which he went to Chicago for further study. In fact, throughout his entire life he has been a student and is thus continually advancing his own efficiency as well as assisting others in cultivating their musical gifts. In 1890 he came to Dixon, where he was associated with the Dixon College until 1903. In that year he removed to Rochester, Indiana, where he was half owner of a normal college, but in 1907 returned to Dixon and was again with the Dixon College until 1911. In that year he organized W. F. Strong's College of Music, giving instruction in all branches of music and granting diplomas in three graduating courses. The success of his pupils has demonstrated the accuracy and practicability of the college methods. The three courses for graduation include the academic, the normal and the classic course and all pupils have the benefit of a musical atmosphere, attending morning classes in harmony, musical history and biography, weekly evening meetings in the studio for private rehearsals and monthly meetings in the large auditorium for public recitals. The degree of Bachelor of Music is conferred upon those completing the classic course. Moreover, Mr. Strong has arranged that those so desiring may combine with music, courses in stenography, book-keeping, typewriting, English branches, oratory or art.

In 1887 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Strong and Miss Mary Bell, of Valparaiso, Indiana. Mrs. Strong is also an accomplished musician, displaying notable ability as a pianist and pipe

organist, and she has successfully taught with her husband. She has studied music under Amy Fay and August Hillstead of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Strong have two daughters: Kathryn, who is a graduate of Strong's College of Music and is now pursuing advanced work in Chicago, at the same time teaching in her father's school; and Delia, a violin student. Mr. Strong is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he is somewhat independent but inclined toward the progressive party. Genial and courteous in manner, thoroughly earnest in his chosen profession, he has the ability to inspire his pupils with a deep interest in the work and in his teaching he makes a study of individual needs so that instruction is given to meet the specific requirements of each pupil. His compositions, too, have won recognition among music lovers and those thoroughly interested in the art, and Dixon has reason to be proud of the Strong College of Music.

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#### CLAYTON H. BOKHOF, M. D.

Dr. Clayton H. Bokhof, a Northwestern man, who since his graduation in 1899 has continuously practiced his profession, being located in Dixon since 1901, was born in Rock City, Illinois, on the 18th of March, 1873, his parents being Herman and Amelia (Eggert) Bokhof, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Illinois. The father is numbered among the leading, influential and progressive citizens of Rock City, where he is engaged in the grain business and also figures prominently in financial circles as the president of the Rock City State Bank.

Dr. Bokhof was reared amid pleasant home surroundings, where he received encouragement to develop the best that was in him in preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. When in the attainment of his education he had graduated from the high school at Rock City it was arranged that he should continue his studies in Beloit College at Beloit, Wisconsin, where his more specifically literary course was completed. A mental review of the many avenues of business opened to young men led him to the conclusion that he wished to engage in the practice of medicine, and to that purpose he entered the medical department of the Northwestern University at Chicago, where he took a full course and was graduated with the class of 1899. He then entered upon

an eighteen months' service as interne and his experience in hospital work has been most valuable to him, giving him a broader knowledge than could be obtained in many years of general practice. Thus well equipped, he came to Dixon at the end of his interneship, opened an office and entered upon general practice, in which he has been very successful. He keeps in touch with the advanced thought of his profession through wide reading and investigation and through the discussion of important professional problems as heard in the meetings of the Lee County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is now secretary of the first named.

In October, 1903, Dr. Bokhof was united in marriage to Miss Ann Steel, a daughter of W. B. Steel and a representative of one of the prominent families of Chicago. Dr. and Mrs. Bokhof have two children, Henry and Jean. Mrs. Bokhof is a member of the Presbyterian church. The Doctor's fraternal connection is with the Elks. He holds himself free from party ties in politics, voting independently. He is interested in matters of progressive citizenship and lends his aid and support to all movements for civic betterment.

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### WILLIAM H. COPPINS.

Dixon is an educational center. Few cities of its size in the entire country can boast of so many schools of recognized merit. An intellectual atmosphere prevails and the standards of education are high along classical, scientific and art lines and in the field where students are especially prepared for business life. It is to the latter field that William H. Coppins has always directed his efforts and as founder and principal of the Coppins' Dixon Business College and Normal School of Dixon he is well known. A native of Bureau county, Illinois, he was born in Tiskilwa in 1871 and is a son of James and Theodosia Coppins, who were pioneer residents of that county, settling there when the work of development and improvement was in its infancy. The father was a farmer by occupation, devoting his entire life to that pursuit. He recognized the value of educational training as a preparation for life's work and desired that his children should have good opportunities in that direction. William H. Coppins after attending the public schools was sent to the Gem City Business College at Quincy, Illi-

nois, where he was graduated with the class of 1892. He has since engaged in teaching and for twenty-one years has been identified with the profession in Dixon. He is one of the most widely known educators of this city and his ability has given him high rank among Dixon's most successful instructors. He was continuously connected with the Steinman School until 1905, when he organized the Coppins' Dixon Business College and Normal School, now occupying the second floor at No. 215 First street. From the beginning the school has enjoyed continuous and substantial growth and no higher testimonial of its efficiency and the capability of its graduates can be given than the fact that there are more demands for employes than the school can supply. The aim of the school is high. It fosters ambition and stimulates a desire to achieve success on the part of the pupils. Its slogan is: "Character and a little ability spell success; ability and a little character spell failure." The course of instruction includes stenography, book-keeping, business forms, letter writing, theory and practice in accounts, arithmetic, English, spelling, school law, etc. The touch system of typewriting is taught and the most advanced methods are followed in imparting instruction. The aim of the school is to give an education that will last through life and will continue to grow in its usefulness as the individual develops his powers.

In 1896 Mr. Coppins was united in marriage to Miss Clara Biddulph, also a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and they have become the parents of three children. Mr. Coppins exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. High principles guide him in all relations of life and high standards constitute the salient features of his professional career.

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### MRS. LEONORA ABELL.

Mrs. Leonora Abell is a representative of a well known pioneer family of Lee county and from her infancy has resided in this locality, having come here with her parents in 1852. She was born in Orangeville, Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Silas and Mary (Pierce) Lazarus. The father settled on a farm in Lee county in 1852 and was numbered among the pioneers in this locality. He took up a tract of land which was yet a wilderness and for many years thereafter cultivated and im-





JOHN M. ABELL





proved this property, making it one of the model farms in Lee county. He enlisted in Battery G, Second Illinois Light Artillery on December 25, 1863, and served until the close of the war. He died in November, 1899, at the age of seventy-four, having survived his wife since 1887. Both are buried in East Paw Paw. The paternal branch of this family is of German origin but its representatives have been in America for many generations.

Mrs. Leonora Abell was still a child when her parents came to Lee county and she acquired her education in the public schools of East Paw Paw, attending until she was fifteen years of age and afterward remaining at home until after her marriage. On the 11th of March, 1869, she wedded John M. Abell, a native of St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, and a son of Jabez and Susan (Miller) Abell. John M. Abell came to Lee county when he was still a child and acquired his education in the public schools. After laying aside his books he turned his attention to farming and carpentering, following both occupations until his death. He erected many of the fine residences in Lee county and also the United Brethren church and many public and private buildings in Compton. He also gave a great deal of attention to the development of his farm in Viola township, erecting excellent buildings upon it and making it one of the finest and most productive properties in this section of the state. His interests extended also to the field of public affairs and he was honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of trust and responsibility, serving with credit and ability as supervisor, justice of the peace, tax collector and assessor of Viola township. He was a member of the United Brethren church and of the Masonic fraternity conforming his life to the principles of those organizations. His public and private records were alike exemplary and his death, which occurred February 13, 1912, when he was sixty-seven years of age, deprived Lee county of one of its most valued and representative citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Abell became the parents of ten children: Charles J., engaged in the restaurant business in Compton; Philip S., a resident of Shabbona; Harry H., a mail carrier in Compton; Laura L., the wife of Judson Beemer, a farmer in Brooklyn township; Mary Cecil, who married Zene Johnston, a farmer in Viola township; Mildred L., the wife of W. C. Potter, foreman of the steel mills in Gary; Stella M., who married Lawrence Lutz, who resides upon the home farm; R. Leslie, a graduate of the Paw Paw high school and now a mail carrier in Sublette; Ruth, the wife of Herbert Carnahan, a meat cutter residing in Compton; and

M. Hope, a graduate of the Compton high school. Mrs. Abell now makes her home in Compton, where her many excellent traits of mind and character have won her the esteem and confidence of an extensive circle of warm friends.

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### FRANK EDWARDS.

The firm of Edwards & Case, general merchants at Paw Paw, enjoys a reputation second to none in the county for strict honesty, progressive business methods and for carrying a stock of goods which is not only reliable but complete. This happy result is largely due to the efforts and ability of Frank Edwards, who untiringly has given his energies toward building up this business. He is one of the younger merchants of the city and worthily follows in his father's footsteps, who also was engaged as a dry-goods merchant in these parts. Frank Edwards is a native of Lee county, his birth having occurred at Paw Paw, December 18, 1883. His father is William H. Edwards, also born in Paw Paw, and the latter's father came here in the early days of 1848. The mother of our subject in her maidenhood was Eva A. La Porte. William H. Edwards, the father of our subject, was one of the first to establish a dry-goods store in this part of the county. After a long and successful career he now resides retired in Dixon, Illinois. The maternal grandfather of our subject was one of the oldest settlers in this part of Illinois and in 1847 crossed the plains to California in search of gold. He was a friend of the Indian chief Shabona and when he and his family made their home here an unbroken wilderness existed where flourishing farms now thrive. Both parents of the mother of our subject are deceased and buried in Stevens cemetery, near Rollo. William H. Edwards owns one of the finest collections of Indian relics in that state of Illinois—a collection which is so comprehensive that it has found a place of honor in the Dixon library. The Edwards family is of English origin, the grandfather coming to the United States about 1840 and making his way to this section of the middle west in 1848, as above mentioned.

Frank Edwards received his education in the Dixon public schools, leaving the high school at the age of eighteen. To complement his education along commercial lines he then took a course in the Dixon Business College and subsequently accepted a posi-

tion as clerk for the Dixon Grocery Company. He then bought an interest in the firm of which he is now a partner and which has become by his able thought and effort the largest of its kind in the town. Progressive and energetic, Mr. Edwards is a business man of the modern type and, although well informed upon the smallest detail of the business, he never loses sight of the general trend of affairs, always preserving his energies for the most important matter at hand. In this way he has succeeded in building up an organization which is well suited to take care of the extensive patronage which is accorded his store.

At Dixon, on May 22, 1907, Mr. Edwards was united in marriage to Miss Mary Woodbridge, a daughter of John K. and Nellie Woodbridge. Both parents are dead. The father passed away in Evanston, Illinois, where he is buried, his wife preceding him in death in 1884, finding her last resting place in a Chicago cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have one son, William, who is four years of age. Mr. Edwards adheres to the Presbyterian church and fraternally is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, belonging to the Dixon lodge. He owns his residence, where both he and his wife often entertain their many friends. He is not only highly regarded as a business man but has won the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens because of his high qualities of mind and character. He is interested in all matters of public welfare and ever considerate of the interests of others. His success is largely due to his own efforts and inherent ability and a bright future may be prophesied for the firm of Edwards & Case as long as the business is directed by the guiding hand of the senior partner.

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### EDWIN A. POMEROY.

The name of Pomeroy has been well known in Bradford township since pioneer times and its present representative, Edwin A. Pomeroy, is one of the most progressive and substantial agriculturists of his locality, where during the entire period of his active life he has been engaged in farming. He was born in this township February 14, 1868, and is a son of Edwin W. and Laura Jane (Adams) Pomeroy, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York state. The father came to Illinois in 1844, among the early settlers in Lee county, and bought land from the

government, engaging in agricultural pursuits for many years thereafter. He later moved to Florida, where his wife passed away in 1905. Following this he returned to Lee county and here died in 1908. In his family were three children: Mary E., the wife of Henry Wright, of Amboy, Illinois; Elizabeth W., who married E. J. Gray, of this county; and Edwin A., of this review.

The last named was reared upon the farm and was familiar at an early age with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the grain and stock. When he was twenty-one he rented the homestead and after operating it for several years bought the adjoining property. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres on section 31, Bradford township, and section 36, China township. By his intelligent management and progressive methods he has surrounded himself with a comfortable degree of prosperity. In addition to this he owns a one hundred and sixty acre farm in Potter county, South Dakota.

In 1893 Mr. Pomeroy was united in marriage to Miss Adaline D. Thornton. Mrs. Pomeroy engaged in teaching in Lee county for several years previous to her marriage. She and her husband have six children: Philip E., who was born July 30, 1894; Richard T., whose birth occurred May 11, 1896; Helen L., born September 24, 1897; Edith E., December 27, 1901; Vernon S., December 6, 1903; and Floyd S., July 8, 1905.

Mr. Pomeroy is well known in fraternal circles, being a member of Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, A. F. & A. M., and Haskel Lodge, No. 1004, I. O. O. F., of Lee Center. He is also affiliated with Lee Center Camp, No. 1036, M. W. A., and he and his wife belong to the Rebekahs and the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Pomeroy gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held the office of road supervisor. His attention is, however, largely confined to his farming interests and his success in their management places him among the representative and substantial men of the community.

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### CHARLES E. IVES.

Charles E. Ives is a prominent and successful attorney of Amboy, which city has remained his place of residence since December, 1854, or for almost six decades. Immediately after the close of the Civil war, in which he had participated as a loyal defender



of the Union, he entered his father's law office and subsequently practiced in association with him for a period of twenty years, the firm being known as W. E. Ives & Son. Since 1908 he has practiced his profession independently and has been accorded a liberal and lucrative clientage. His birth occurred in Pavilion, Kendall county, Illinois, on the 14th of October, 1842, his parents being William E. and Susan (Ryan) Ives. The father remained an able and successful representative of the legal profession in Amboy from 1854 until his death more than a half century later. During that period he was honored by election to the position of state's attorney and also served as mayor of Amboy. His demise occurred in 1908, when he had attained the venerable age of eighty-seven and a half years, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1883, at the age of sixty-two years. The remains of both were interred in Amboy. Representatives of the Ives family, which is of English origin, came to the United States at an early period in the history of this country. A Mr. Bingham, brother of the great-grandmother of our subject, served under Colonel Ethan Allen in the Revolutionary struggle.

In the acquirement of an education Charles E. Ives attended school at Mount Morris, Illinois, and later pursued his studies in the Chicago University, leaving that institution in 1862, however, in order to join the boys in blue in their defense of the Union. In June of that year he became a member of the Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Regiment and in 1864 reenlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry, serving with the latter command until the cessation of hostilities. He proved a brave and valorous soldier and returned home with a creditable military record. Having determined upon the legal profession as a life work, he entered the law office of his father and eventually became his partner, practicing in association with him under the firm style of W. E. Ives & Son for a period of twenty years. Since 1908 he has practiced independently at Amboy. His success in a professional way affords the best evidence of his capabilities in this line. He is a strong advocate with the jury and concise in his appeals before the court. Much of the success which has attended him in his professional career is undoubtedly due to the fact that in no instance will he permit himself to go into court with a case unless he has absolute confidence in the justice of his client's cause. Basing his efforts on this principle, from which there are far too many lapses in professional ranks, it naturally follows that he seldom loses a case in whose support he is enlisted.

On the 18th of March, 1874, at Fenton, Michigan, Mr. Ives was united in marriage to Miss Eva J. Lamb, a daughter of the Rev. Aroswal and Sophia Lamb, her father being a pastor at Hartland, Michigan. Our subject and his wife have three children, as follows: William E., who is an expert machinist in the employ of the Public Service Company; George S., a druggist of Franklin Grove, Illinois; and Eva F., who is the wife of F. J. Blocher, a clothing merchant of Franklin Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Ives is a republican in his political views and has ably served in the capacity of justice of the peace since 1901. He has likewise acted as town clerk and has made a highly creditable record as a public official. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church, and he also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a dependable man under any condition and in any emergency. His quietude of deportment, his easy dignity, his frankness and cordiality of address, with the total absence of anything sinister or anything to conceal, foretold a man who is ready to meet any obligation of life with the confidence and courage that come of conscious personal ability, a right conception of things and an habitual regard for what is best in the exercise of human activities.

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### GEORGE L. RICHARDSON.

While George L. Richardson is now a resident of Burke, South Dakota, he is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Lee county, where he has a wide and favorable acquaintance. He was born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, on the 2d of December, 1842, and comes of genuine old New England stock. He is proud, however, to claim that his boyhood days were passed in Dixon, for he was brought to the west by his parents in 1849, when a lad of seven years. They arrived at Daysville, Illinois, in the month of November and from that time forward George L. Richardson was an interested witness of the growth of the county and of the events which have shaped its history. Even at the early age of seven years he took great pleasure in assisting his grandfather, James Hatch, Sr., helping to swing the ox goad over two yoke of fine oxen which had been brought to this district from Chicago. As there were no railroads in those days and comparatively few horses in the county, oxen were in great demand. In the winter of 1849-50 George L.



GEORGE L. RICHARDSON



Richardson came to Dixon and lived for a time with his uncle, James Hatch, Jr., who was then conducting the only bakery in this part of the state nearer than Peru. James and Charles Hatch had the credit of operating the first bakery in Dixon, distributing their hand-made crackers and bread to nearby settlements.

At the age of seven years George L. Richardson was sent to a select or subscription school taught by a Mrs. Cotton in what was known as the stone schoolhouse directly west of the Nachusa house. The lamented Major L. Levanway of the Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, who was killed at the battle of Shiloh on the 7th of April, 1862, was the next teacher. He was followed by Henry T. Noble, who was a member of the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry. In the early '50s the demand for a better school system became imperative and the public schools were established.

With advancing years George L. Richardson passed from one school to another of higher grade and at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861 was a student in the high school which was then conducted in the building now occupied by Dr. Marion L. White, on Second street, where Alexander and James Gow were the efficient instructors. In September of 1861, Mr. Richardson, who could no longer content himself to remain at home while the country was engaged in war, enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry in which he served for three years and was then honorably discharged at Jonesboro, Georgia, September 12, 1864, when but twenty-two years of age. He went back to Nashville, Tennessee, with General Thomas and while at that point in the winter of 1865, the battle of Nashville occurred, the troops of General Thomas being confronted with the rebel forces under General Hood. Mr. Richardson was in the service at that time in the Ninth Regiment quartermaster forces, having been appointed first lieutenant of Company D of that regiment. During his military experience he participated in many hotly contested engagements, including the battle of Shiloh, April, 7, 1862; the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, in May, 1862; the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, in October of the same year, on which occasion he was recommended to his superiors for promotion in recognition of gallant conduct on the field of action, as told in Major General A. McD. McCook's report of the battle. He was held as a prisoner of war during the month of December, 1862, having been captured near Nashville, Tennessee, while acting as messenger for General McCook. Subsequently he was exchanged and participated in the battle of Chickamauga in October, 1863, and Lookout Mountain and Missionary



Ridge in December, 1863. The balance of his service until September, 1864, was in the army blank and record office at Nashville, Tennessee.

After the close of the war Mr. Richardson returned to Dixon and later went to Woodstock, Illinois, where he pursued a three years' course in the Woodstock Academy. He also took a semi-collegiate course in Carroll College at Waukesha, Wisconsin. For a number of years he engaged in teaching in Lee county and his last three years in this profession were spent as principal of the Lee Center schools.

He then withdrew from the educational field to turn his attention to merchandising in Lee Center, Illinois, where he established a store which he successfully conducted for fourteen consecutive years, enjoying a good and profitable trade throughout that period. He then retired from business in 1899 and returned to his old home in Dixon. During his residence in Lee Center he held many offices of public trust, serving as justice of the peace and notary public for four years and as assessor for seven years.

Mr. Richardson was married in Lee Center in 1874, to Miss Millie C. De Wolf and unto them were born the following named: Mae D., the wife of Mark C. Keller, city attorney of Dixon; Nelson E., who is now manager of the grocery department for the I. B. Countryman Company at Dixon; John G., who is now employed in the postoffice of Dixon; and Marguerite, who is living in this city. Mr. Richardson gave all of his children excellent educational opportunities. He is a comrade in G. A. R. Post, No. 299, of Dixon, Illinois, and is active in Masonry, being a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery. As a mark of esteem and in recognition of his splendid work in the chapter he was exalted to the chair of most excellent high priest of Nachusa Chapter, No. 56, of Dixon, which office he filled with honor to the fraternity and credit to himself.

On account of ill health Mr. Richardson went west in 1906 and filed on a claim near Burke, South Dakota, in the Indian Rosebud reservation. He was on the ground and selected the quarter section which he now owns and occupies in 1904, at which time he liked the climate so well that he decided to locate there. There are few of the war veterans of the '60s who are now living in the far west country. The Indians are fast disappearing and the work of civilization and general improvement is rapidly advancing. Mr Richardson now has his farm in a fine state of cultivation and it is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. It

compares favorably with Illinois farms in its buildings and improvements, the climate is fine, the people are of the best type of American citizenship and yet there are often times when Mr. Richardson longs for his old home in Illinois, where he resided for so many years, during which time he formed a strong attachment for the state and its people.

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### ROBERT L. BAIRD, M. D.

Thorough college training and broad hospital experience well qualify Dr. Robert L. Baird for the onerous duties which now devolve upon him as a practitioner of medicine in Dixon. He is yet a young man but has already attained a position in the profession which many an older practitioner might well envy. He was born in Sterling, Illinois, in 1883, and is a son of H. D. and Margaret (Norris) Baird, who are also natives of Illinois. However, their parents were from England and Scotland respectively and were pioneers of this state. H. D. Baird was reared to the occupation of farming and has made it his life work.

At the usual age Dr. Baird entered the public schools, passed through consecutive grades as he mastered the lessons connected therewith and in due time became a high-school pupil. His education was further continued in Dixon College, of which he is a graduate, and then in preparation for the medical profession, which he had determined to make his life work, he entered the Hahnemann Medical College and was graduated therefrom in 1908. For a year he was an interne in the Hahnemann Hospital, being appointed to this position in recognition of his high standing in his college work. This brought him broad medical experience, enabling him to put his theoretical training to the test, and after a year thus spent he returned to Dixon, where he opened an office and entered upon general practice in 1909. It was not long before his ability found recognition in a practice that has steadily grown. Although he is a young man, he has already made a creditable name and place for himself. He belongs to the Lee County Homeopathic Medical Society, the Illinois State Homeopathic Society and the National Homeopathic Medical Association.

In 1910 Dr. Baird was married to Miss Grace Over, of Sterling, Illinois. His social nature finds expression in his membership in the Masonic lodge, the Knights of Pythias fraternity

and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In his political views he is a democrat and his religious faith is evidenced by his membership in the Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran church. They are now widely known in Dixon and have a large circle of warm friends.

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### IRA R. GEORGE.

Among those who materially contributed to agricultural progress in Lee county was Ira R. George, who passed away in the midst of a successful career in 1907, when but forty-three years of age. He was a native son of Lee county, being born in Ashton township on August 17, 1864, a son of David and Susan (Reid) George, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Lee county in an early day of its pioneer history. The parents located in Franklin Grove but subsequently bought a farm in Ashton township at the remarkable price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. It is interesting to record this price in order to give an idea as to the improvement and progress made in this section as evidenced from the sums which are now needed to acquire farm land in the middle west. On this farm the parents remained many years, the mother dying upon it. The father also passed away in Lee county. Here our subject grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the Ashton schools. He remained upon the home property, assisting his father in its operation until forty years of age, when his father deeded him the farm, which comprised one hundred and fifty-one acres. Mr. George also bought nine hundred and sixty acres in Missouri and one hundred and sixty in South Dakota. He gave very close attention to his business affairs and success attended his labors, as he was aggressive and progressive in the management of his interests. His farm was always in the best state of cultivation and reflected the assiduous labor and careful management of the owner in its rich bearing fields.

In 1890 Mr. George was united in marriage to Miss Sarah H. Piper, of Steward, Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of J. C. and Elizabeth (Shelley) Piper, both natives of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. They were among Lee county's early pioneers, coming here in the '40s. Mr. Piper passed away in 1898, his death resulting from an accident, he being killed by a horse. The mother is still living at the age of eighty-five, making her home in Kansas.



IRA R. GEORGE





To Mr. and Mrs. George three children were born: Warren P., April 16, 1892; Myrtle M., born February 2, 1894, the wife of Harry Edgington; and Ada I., born March 16, 1898. Mr. George passed away October 13, 1907, leaving a widow and three children to mourn his death. He found his last resting place in the Ashton cemetery. He was well liked in his community and stood high in the confidence of his friends and neighbors. His wife still owns the farm, which she actively operates. Mr. George was a member of the Church of the Brethren, to which his widow also belongs. She is a lady of good education and before her marriage taught school for some time. Mr. George was one of those men who always interested himself in anything that made for progress and advancement and by his life labors contributed toward raising moral, material and intellectual standards in the section which he called his home.

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#### JAMES W. WATTS.

James W. Watts, one of the distinguished members of the Lee county bar, has been engaged in general practice at Dixon since 1886. A large and representative clientage has always been accorded him and in addition to his work as advocate and counselor he has become widely known as an educator, having been dean of the law department of Dixon College since June 10, 1889, while in May, 1913, he in connection with a number of students, organized the James W. Watts College of Law.

Born in 1850 in Terre Haute, Indiana, Mr. Watts was but two years of age when his parents removed from that state to Illinois. Settlement was made in Lafayette township, Ogle county, in 1853, and there James W. Watts remained until he reached early manhood, his education being acquired in the public schools. He was reared to farm life and early became familiar with all of the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1869 he began teaching, following this occupation for three years in the country schools of Lee county, and in 1872 he went to Ashton, where he remained as a student until the fall of 1874. He desired to leave the schoolroom for professional activity, however, and at that time entered the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated on the 30th of March, 1876. He applied himself assiduously to the mastery of the prin-

ciples of jurisprudence and was well qualified for the arduous duties of the profession when he returned to Ashton and opened a law office. He remained in practice there for nine years and then, seeking a still broader field of labor, came to Dixon in the fall of 1886. Here he has since engaged in general practice and his pronounced ability has given him rank with the foremost members of the bar in this part of the state. The legal profession demands not only a high order of ability but a rare combination of talent—learning, tact, patience and industry. The successful lawyer must be a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, of comprehensive general information and possessed of an analytical mind. Possessing all of these requisites, James W. Watts has long been accounted one of the foremost representatives of the Dixon bar, and his ability as an educator in the field of his profession is widely acknowledged. On the 10th of June, 1889, he entered upon the duties of dean of the law department of Dixon College and is as well a teacher of law in that institution. In May, 1913, the James W. Watts College of Law was organized by students of the law department of the Northern Illinois College of Law and at its head Mr. Watts is taking an active part in maintaining the high standards of legal education in this state.

He is as well intensely interested in general education and the cause of the public schools, recognizing in them one of the chief bulwarks of the nation. For six years he served as president of the board of education at Ashton and while there residing was also assessor of the town of Ashton for five years and was supervisor in 1881. Following his removal to Dixon he was elected president of the board of education of North Dixon and so continued for fifteen years. He likewise filled the office of city attorney for two years and his official service has been characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty. In 1889 he was elected justice of the peace and remained in that office until the 1st of May, 1898.

On the 25th of May, 1875, in Ashton, Mr. Watts was united in marriage to Miss Mary Alice Williams and they have one child, Mrs. Clea Bunnell, who was born September 18, 1876, and is the widow of Elwin M. Bunnell. She has two sons, Willard and Elwin, and she and her sons reside with her father.

Mr. Watts is prominently known in fraternal circles. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Ashton, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the

**Modern Woodmen of America.** As a lawyer and educator he has left the impress of his individuality upon the history of the bar of northern Illinois and, moreover, his personal worth of character commands for him the respect and confidence of all.

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### M. J. BIESCHKE.

M. J. Bieschke, proprietor of a general store at West Brooklyn, conducted under his own name, is a wide-awake, alert and energetic young business man of the town in which he was born, March 17, 1884, his parents being Albert and Mary (Meyer) Bieschke, who are now living retired in West Brooklyn. They reared a family of ten children, of whom three have passed away—Kate, John and William. The others are: Frances, now the wife of George Kauth, a resident of Elburn, Illinois; Nicholas, a painter; Adam, a farmer of Iowa; Joseph, who follows farming in Viola township; Albert, a painter of West Brooklyn; M. J. and Frank, who is engaged in clerking for his brother M. J. Bieschke.

The family name indicates the German origin and in his life M. J. Bieschke displays a number of the sterling characteristics of the German race. His education was acquired in the schools of his native town which he attended to the age of seventeen years. He afterward took up carpentering, following the trade for three years, after which he spent a similar period as lineman and general utility man for the Yocum Telephone Company. He afterward worked for F. W. Meyer, a general merchant, with whom he remained for two and a half years, before embarking in business on his own account in 1909. He has since won success in his undertaking. He now has a well appointed general store, carrying a good line of goods and tasteful arrangement and reasonable prices are features in his increasing prosperity.

On the 5th of June, 1906, Mr. Bieschke was married in West Brooklyn, to Miss Margaret Gehant, a daughter of Claude and Mary Gehant, both of whom have passed away and are laid to rest in the West Brooklyn cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Bieschke have two children, Fay, and Wencel. The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Bieschke holds membership with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political indorsement is given to the democratic party. His

has been an active and well spent life and he has already made a record in mercantile circles that many an older business man might well envy. He has always lived in this section and his friends are many, all who know him esteeming him for his sterling worth.

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### WILLIAM P. LONG.

The consensus of public opinion places William P. Long among the leading and representative citizens of Amboy, where he is engaged in the live-stock business with stock yards near the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He has here been located since 1906, and is a well known factor in the business circles of this part of the county. For almost sixty years Mr. Long has resided in Lee county, having been brought to the west during his infancy. He was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1852, and comes of Scotch-Irish ancestry, his parents being James L. and Margaret J. (Blair) Long. The father brought his family to Lee county in 1854, settling on a farm in Sublette township, when the land could be purchased at a dollar and a quarter per acre. The price indicates its condition, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made upon the tracts which could be bought at that price. Mr. Long, however, soon converted his farm into rich and productive fields and became known as one of the prominent men of his county. He took an active interest in all measures relating to the public good and his labors were far-reaching and beneficial. At the time of the Civil war he aided in soliciting for bounty. He died in 1871 at the age of forty-five years and was buried in the Peterson graveyard in Sublette township. The mother now resides with her son, William, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. It was while assisting a friend to drive hogs into a car on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad that Mr. Long fell between the cars and was killed. In his death the community lost one of its worthy and representative citizens, who is yet remembered by the older settlers.

Through much of the period of his boyhood and youth William P. Long spent the winter seasons attending the district schools and throughout the remainder of the year he assisted in the farm work. Being the only son of the family, he took charge of the farm fol-



lowing his father's death and for a long period successfully carried on agricultural pursuits.

He is still the owner of valuable farming property including about four hundred acres. That his methods of developing his crops were practical is indicated in the generous harvests which he gathered and which returned to him a gratifying annual income. Mr. Long, since coming to Amboy in 1906, has been engaged in the live-stock business and annually handles a large amount of stock, shipping many carloads from this point each month. He is one of the directors and stockholders of the Lee County Fair Association and has done much to stimulate pride among the farmers and stock-raisers of the county in holding before them high ideals of their work and showing them what can be accomplished both in tilling the soil and in raising fine stock.

Mr. Long was married in Sublette, Illinois, May 1, 1878, to Miss Ellie M. Ayres, a daughter of Henry and Anna Ayres, pioneer farming people of the county, who have now passed away. Mrs. Long died May 30, 1908, leaving two children: Joe, a civil engineer residing in Springfield, Illinois; and Leon R., a mining engineer now in Ecuador, South America, where he is engaged in railroad construction.

Mr. Long is well known as a representative of the Masonic fraternity, holding membership with the Lodge and Chapter of Amboy. In politics he is a republican and is serving as road commissioner of Amboy township. His position upon any vital question, political or otherwise, is never an equivocal one. He stands fearlessly for what he believes to be right and as the years go on his worth as a public-spirited man and one whose labors are of practical value is more and more widely acknowledged.

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### FRED D. DANA.

Fred D. Dana, filling the office of deputy county treasurer since 1910, is one of the native sons of Dixon, his birth having occurred in this city on the 6th of July, 1875. His parents were Josiah P. and Winifred M. (Nixon) Dana, the former a native of New York and the latter of England. They became residents of the middle west in early life, however, and were married in Wisconsin, while subsequently they established their home in this city.



Fred D. Dana had a public-school education, taking up his studies at the usual age and passing through consecutive grades as the years went by. He also received business training in the Dixon College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1895. Much of his life has been devoted to journalistic interests. He was in newspaper work for twelve years as city editor for the Sun and later became city editor for the Daily News. He thus continued in active connection with newspaper publication until 1910, when he was appointed deputy county treasurer, and is still the incumbent in the office, the duties of which he discharges systematically, methodically and capably. He has also filled other public positions, having been one of the city aldermen and a member of the school board.

On the 18th of June, 1902, Mr. Dana was united in marriage to Miss Evelyn C. McElhaney, of Amboy, Illinois. They now have two children, Evelyn F., and Ruth. Mr. Dana is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is popular in both. His political allegiance has always been given the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and it is upon that ticket that he has been elected to public office. He is prompt and faithful in the discharge of all the duties of citizenship and his public spirit prompts his active and helpful cooperation in many movements relating to the welfare and upbuilding of the city.

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#### CHARLES A. FENSTEMAKER.

Charles A. Fenstemaker, a successful business man and representative citizen of Lee county, is the owner of the Fenstemaker elevator at Amboy, which he has conducted since 1909. His birth occurred in East Grove township, this county, on the 3d of December, 1862, his parents being George and Hannah (Williams) Fenstemaker. It was about 1858 that George Fenstemaker came to Lee county, Illinois, from Pennsylvania, where he had been engaged in business as a gunsmith, coal mine operator and hotel proprietor and was also prominent in public life as a representative in the state legislature. He came here with the intention of devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits and took up his abode in this county when it was still largely wild and unimproved. Hunting was his favorite sport and he often invited



CHARLES A. FENSTERMAKER



guests to join with him in the chase. In 1869 he established his home in Wheeling, Missouri, and there passed away in October, 1882, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife, surviving him for a period of twenty-six years, was called to her final rest in 1908, at the age of seventy-six, and her remains were likewise interred at Wheeling, Missouri. The Fenstemakers are of old Pennsylvania German origin.

Charles A. Fenstemaker was a lad of seven years when his parents removed to Wheeling, Missouri, and there he attended school until eighteen years of age, pursuing his studies through the winter months and assisting in the work of the home farm during the summer seasons. In 1882 he returned to Lee county, Illinois, and during the following four years worked with his brother, G. W., in a blacksmith shop. In 1887 he took up his abode in Walton and there carried on blacksmithing in connection with grain buying until 1909, when he purchased the elevator at Amboy, which he has conducted to the present time with gratifying success. He had erected his blacksmith shop and residence at Walton, Illinois, but acquired his present home by purchase.

On the 25th of January, 1887, at Amboy, Illinois, Mr. Fenstemaker was united in marriage to Miss Clara Corpe, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Corpe, of Michigan. He gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has ably served in the capacity of tax collector and also as town clerk of Marion township. He is an upright, straightforward and honorable man and has made an excellent record in business circles, both for reliability and for the practical methods which he follows and which have led him to success.

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### JAMES H. LINCOLN.

James H. Lincoln has since 1898 filled the office of postmaster of Franklin Grove and has proven a faithful and efficient incumbent of that position. He is a native son of the community, born December 12, 1862, his parents being Henry and Helen M. (Nay) Lincoln, natives of Genesee county, New York. The father came to Illinois in 1847 and after residing for some time in Kendall county moved in 1852 to Franklin Grove, where he established himself in the mercantile business. In 1860 he built a substantial stone store and for many years thereafter remained one of

the leading business men of the community, winning an enviable reputation for integrity and honor in all business and personal relations. In 1896 he retired from active life and his death occurred in 1904, he having survived his wife since 1893.

James H. Lincoln is one of a family of four children. He was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools of Franklin Grove. After he attained his majority his father admitted him into partnership in the mercantile business and he retained this connection until the enterprise was disposed of in 1896. In 1898 he was appointed by President McKinley, postmaster of Franklin Grove and he has since held this position, which he fills with credit and ability.

On the 12th of November, 1890, Mr. Lincoln was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Bill, a native of Lee county and a daughter of Charles B. and Catherine (Woodruff) Bill, natives of Ohio, who came to Illinois at an early date, both passing away in this state. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are widely and favorably known in Franklin Grove. Mr. Lincoln owns in addition to his home here the business building, which his father erected in 1860 and one hundred and sixty acres of land in Linn county, Kansas. He is connected fraternally with Grove Camp, No. 45, M. W. A., and has filled all of the chairs in Franklin Grove Lodge, No. 504, K. P. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. The public trust reposed in him has never been neglected in the slightest degree and his fidelity to honorable, manly principles has ever won for him the good-will and friendship of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM ROMANUS SNYDER.

Superintendent William Romanus Snyder, for five years superintendent of the schools of Dixon and throughout his entire life active in the field of education, is a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. His parents, Conrad and Catherine Jane (Fisher) Snyder, were also natives of the Keystone state, where the father followed the occupation of farming until his life's labors were ended in death in 1860. His widow long survived, passing away in 1902. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Superintendent Snyder is the fourth in order of birth. Spending his



boyhood in the historic town of Gettysburg and tramping many times over the battlefield where rest many of the bravest of the soldiers of both north and south, Professor Snyder devoted the greater part of his youth to his school work, attending the public schools, from which he was graduated with honor. His high standing won him free scholarship in the Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, a scholarship founded by Edward G. McPherson, ex-clerk of the house of representatives. Mr. Snyder graduated from Pennsylvania College in 1873 and his alma mater has since conferred upon him the Master of Arts degree. Throughout his entire life he has followed the profession of teaching. He was first connected with the district schools of Wyandot county, Ohio, through one winter and later removed to Indiana, where he engaged in teaching until 1903. For twenty years he was connected with the schools of Muncie, Indiana, being for four years a teacher and principal in the high school. Later he was for sixteen years superintendent of the schools there, which under his guidance made rapid progress. He went from Muncie to Monmouth, Illinois, where he remained for two years as superintendent of schools, and in 1909 came to Dixon, where for five years he has now had charge of the city schools. He holds advanced ideas concerning education and believes with Kant that "the object of education is to train each individual to reach the highest perfection possible for him." All through his professional career he has been guided by the spirit of President Eliot of Harvard, when he said: "What is needed is continuous education which lasts all through life," and deep thought concerning the problems of the profession, earnest consideration of the methods of others, combined with wide reading and study have continually promoted his efficiency until his recognized power has gained him place among the foremost public-school educators of the middle west.

In 1878 Mr. Snyder was united in marriage to Miss Nannie B. Ferran, of Acton, Indiana, and they now have two daughters, Lilly E. and Myrtle Morrow, both at home. The family attend the Presbyterian church, of which Superintendent Snyder and his wife are active and helpful members, he serving as one of its ruling elders. His political support is given to the republican party and his wide reading on significant and vital questions of the day enables him to intelligently express himself upon important questions of government. In Masonry he has attained high rank in both the York and Scottish Rites. He is a past master of the blue lodge, thrice illustrious master in the council

and past eminent commander of the commandery. He also served as prelate in the commandery for nine years. He is a member of the consistory, having attained the thirty-second degree, there remaining before him only the last and honorary degree, the thirty-third. The spirit of Masonic teaching has found exemplification in his life and at all times he has endeavored to follow its tenets concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness.

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### WALTER S. EARLL.

Walter S. Earll is a representative of the best type of American manhood and chivalry. By perseverance, determination and honorable effort he has overthrown the obstacles which bar the path to success and has reached the goal of prosperity, being today owner of one of the leading commercial enterprises of Dixon—the Earll grocery store, which was established in September, 1904.

Mr. Earll is a native of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, born in 1857 and is a son of S. W. and J. A. Earll, who in the year 1858 left the east and brought their family to Illinois, settling in Rochelle. Later they removed to Grand Detour, Ogle county, where the father engaged in farming, continuing in that pursuit until his life's labors were ended in death.

Walter S. Earll acquired a public-school education which was supplemented by a course in Bryant & Stratton business college of Chicago. He afterward went to Leadville, Colorado, where he remained for a year and later spent eight years in the hardware business in Augusta, Kansas. In 1891 he arrived in Dixon, where he entered the employ of the grocery firm of Morris & Sons, being thus engaged until 1904, when he embarked in business on his own account. He was ambitious to engage in merchandising for himself and while acting as clerk, carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had made the sum sufficient to enable him to form a partnership for the conduct of a grocery business. In September he was a junior member of the firm of Moyer & Earll. They opened a general line of groceries and the business prospered from the beginning, their trade increasing year by year. In 1909 Mr. Moyer died and in July of that year the business was reorganized under the name of the Earll Grocery Store, of which Walter S. Earll has since been sole proprietor. He carries a large and carefully selected line of staple and fancy groceries and as a business

man he has been conspicuous among his associates, not only for his success, but for his probity, fairness and honorable methods.

In December, 1902, Mr. Earll was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Shook, of Massillon, Ohio, who died in the year 1908. In Masonry he has attained high rank in the Scottish Rite, belonging to the Royal Arch Chapter and the Knight Templar Commandery. He also crossed the sands of the deserts with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is an Elk and to the teachings of both fraternities is ever loyal. His political indorsement is given to the republican party, but he has no time nor inclination for office, owing to his growing commercial interests. His activity in business has not only contributed to his individual success, but has also been an active factor in the commercial progress of the city during the past decade.

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### WILLIAM E. JONES.

William E. Jones is a member of one of the well known families of Bradford township and represents the third generation of his line to live upon the farm which he now operates. He was born upon this property October 3, 1875, and is a son of William V. and Viola (Starcks) Jones, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Lee county, Illinois. The mother passed away in December, 1911, and is survived by her husband, who makes his home in Amboy. They had three children: Augusta, the wife of Dr. Everett Dekalb; William E., of this review; and Margaret, the wife of D. Berry, of Amboy.

William E. Jones was reared upon his father's farm and at an early age assisted in its operation, learning the details of farm operation and becoming familiar with the best agricultural methods by practical experience. When he was twenty-one years of age he took charge of the homestead and he still operates this property. It comprises two hundred and twenty acres on sections 20 and 29, Bradford township, and has been in possession of the Jones family for three generations. Mr. Jones of this review has carried forward the work of developing and improving it in a progressive and able manner and has won for himself a place among the representative agriculturists of this vicinity. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and has extensive interests along this line.

On the 27th of January, 1896, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hoover, a daughter of James and Minnie Hoover. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have six children, Viola, Alta, Dorothy, James W., Esther and Margaret. The parents are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Jones gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He belongs to Lodge No. 1004, I. O. O. F., and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. His life has been such as to give him a high standing in the eyes of the community and his record is a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in his locality.

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### FRED G. DIMICK.

Thirteen years have come and gone since Fred G. Dimick entered the office of the county clerk in the capacity of deputy and, like his superior, William C. Thompson, he seems to know every phase of the work in principle and detail. He was born in Dixon in 1864 and is a son of Alfred S. and Emma M. (Levering) Dimick, who arrived in Lee county in 1855, casting in their lot with its early settlers. The father embarked in business in Dixon as a boot and shoe merchant and conducted his store with growing success until 1883, when, having acquired a substantial competence through his well directed efforts, he retired to private life. He has now reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years and is numbered among the most respected as well as the most venerable citizens of Dixon.

Fred G. Dimick was one of a family of six children, five of whom are yet living. Excellent educational opportunities were accorded him, his public-school course being supplemented by study in Dixon College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1883. For two years thereafter he was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and later spent six years at Pullman, Illinois, in the service of the Pullman Palace Car Company. He then went to Chicago in 1893 and occupied a position in the customs house during the period of the World's Columbian Exposition. Later he was located at Le Mars, Iowa, for two years, and since 1897 he has resided continuously in Dixon, where he holds the position of deputy county clerk. He is now a candidate for the position of county clerk and should he be elected to the office will prove a most capable official. He is already thor-



oughly familiar with the work of the position and his thirteen years as deputy have acquainted him with every phase of the business which comes under the control of the county clerk.

Mr. Dimick has been twice married. In 1903 he wedded Miss Normandie Aileen Eberhart, of Cedar Falls, Iowa. By his first marriage there is a daughter and by his second marriage there were two children but one has passed away. His living daughters are Dorothy and Margaret, who are at home.

Mr. Dimick has always voted with the republican party and is a stalwart advocate of its principles. He is well known fraternally, holding membership in the Masonic lodge and chapter, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His attractive social qualities have rendered him a popular citizen, while fidelity to duty has gained for him the high regard and trust of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### JOHN A. REITZ.

Among the younger agriculturists of Lee county who make a success of their vocation is John A. Reitz, who operates his father's extensive holdings, located on section 34, Ashton township. He was born on this farm February 21, 1886, a son of Henry and Mollie (Ventler) Reitz, natives of Germany, of whom more extended mention is made in another part of this history. John Reitz has spent his entire life upon the farm which he now manages, renting the same from his father. He had the advantages of a fair education, having attended high school for some time. He engages in general farming and, being progressive and modern in his ideas, has achieved gratifying results along that line.

On December 21, 1910, Mr. Reitz married Miss Elizabeth Nass, a daughter of John and Augusta (Hannemann) Nass. Miss Nass was born in Bradford township. Her parents were natives of Germany, coming to America in the '50s, and the father is still living in Ashton, Illinois. The mother died in 1894 and was laid to rest in the Bradford cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Nass became the parents of eight children, of whom six are living. To Mr. and Mrs. Reitz was born a daughter, Myrtle Emma, on October 18, 1912.



Mr. and Mrs. Reitz attend the Evangelical church and along political lines the former is a republican. Mr. Reitz is a modern representative of agricultural interests in Lee county and is to be numbered among the successful men along that line of occupation.

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### GEORGE HENERT.

In George Henert were exhibited the sterling traits of perseverance, adaptability and enterprise which are characteristic of the German race and after coming to the new world, in which he started out empty-handed, he steadily advanced in a business way until he was the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres. His parents were Justus and Anna Henert, also natives of Germany. On coming to the United States they made their way into the interior of the country, settling in Lee county, Illinois, where they lived until called to their final rest. In their family were ten children, five of whom survive.

George Henert spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof with the usual experiences of the lad who is reared upon a farm, his education being acquired in the public schools, while under his father's direction he was trained in all the work that is a factor in the development and cultivation of the fields. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna K. Grieser, who was born in Germany, December 17, 1858, and is a daughter of John and Dora E. (Kleinschmidt) Grieser, who were likewise natives of the fatherland. The year 1862 witnessed their arrival in Lee county, at which time they established their home in Reynolds township, where they resided until called to their final rest. Unto them were born ten children, of whom four are yet living.

Mr. and Mrs. Henert began their domestic life in Reynolds township, establishing their home upon a farm, and as the years passed by our subject proved himself a capable and progressive agriculturist, developing his fields according to modern methods, productive of excellent results. He kept adding to his land from time to time as his financial resources increased until he was the owner of four hundred acres. He improved the place with splendid buildings, barns and sheds, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock, while the latest improved farm machinery facilitated the work of the fields. When a task was to be accomplished he did



GEORGE HENERT AND FAMILY



not falter. The work nearest his hand was that which was first done and thus he won success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Henert were born six children. Anna E., who was born August 24, 1880, died on the 7th of March, 1885. Justus H., born July 2, 1883, is a farmer of this county. Minnie D. is the wife of Arthur Kersten. The fourth child died in infancy. Rose E. became the wife of Harvey Heibenthal; and William G., born March 12, 1894, completes the family. The husband and father died in 1901 and was laid to rest in Reynolds cemetery, leaving a widow and four children to mourn his loss. Mrs. Henert still owns and manages the farm of four hundred acres, which is situated on sections 21, 22, 15 and 16, Reynolds township. She makes a specialty of raising and feeding hogs and derives a substantial income from the business. She possesses sound judgment as well as energy and determination and her German thrift has enabled her to take up the work laid down by her husband and carry it forward to successful completion. She deserves much credit for what she is accomplishing and she is highly esteemed in Reynolds township and throughout the county wherever she is known.

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### WILLIAM C. THOMPSON.

William C. Thompson, occupying the position of county clerk since 1902, is accounted one of the most trustworthy and capable public officials, which statement finds verification in the fact that he has been again and again elected to the position. Lee county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having here occurred on the 28th of June, 1868, his parents being James H. and Catherine J. Thompson. They were early settlers of the county, the father coming from Pennsylvania to Illinois in 1852. The paternal grandfather died when James H. Thompson was but nine years of age and his mother afterward became the wife of John Colville, who settled in Lee county about 1833. He was one of the earliest settlers, the work of improvement and development being scarcely begun when he took up his abode in this part of the state. He bore an active and helpful part in advancing the interests of civilization and was accounted one of the valued citizens of his community. For forty years he served as postmaster of Paw Paw. James H. Thompson was reared upon

the frontier. Settling at Paw Paw, he there engaged in merchandising for thirty-five years and was accounted one of the leading business men of the town. He was also an influential factor in republican politics and his fitness for the office led to his election to the position of county clerk in 1886. He served as president of the village board at Paw Paw until his removal to Dixon in 1886. So capably did he discharge his duties as clerk that at the end of the first term he was reelected and again and again that honor came to him until he had filled the office for sixteen years, retiring as he had entered it, with the confidence and good-will of all concerned. In fact over his public career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He was prompt and reliable in the discharge of his duties and his fellow townsmen have ever found him a man in whom they could repose trust and confidence. His wife, Catherine J. Thompson, came from Pennsylvania in early life and they are now living in Jefferson City, Missouri. On November 1st he received an appointment as superintendent of the national government cemetery in Jefferson City, Missouri. Their family numbered five children, two sons and three daughters.

William C. Thompson, the eldest, remained under the parental roof throughout the period of his boyhood and youth and supplemented his public-school education by a course in Dixon College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1888. The previous year he was appointed deputy county clerk by his father, who in 1886 had been elected to office. He remained as deputy throughout the sixteen years of his father's service in that position and was then elected his successor in December, 1902, so that his incumbency covers a period of eleven years. The name of Thompson has been inseparably connected with the office for more than a quarter of a century and stands as a synonym for capability and fidelity in connection with the discharge of public duties.

In 1890 William C. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Susan B. Dimon, of Dixon, and unto them have been born three children: Dorrance S., who is engaged in the grocery business; Avis F., at home; and Eunice Elizabeth, also under the parental roof. Mr. Thompson belongs to the Masonic fraternity and has taken the Royal Arch degree. He is also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and he attends the Presbyterian church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is an active and helpful worker in its ranks, while his opinions carry weight in its councils. Twenty-seven years' con-



nection with the office of county clerk has made him thoroughly familiar with every phase of the business and no detail is slighted in the least degree. Prompt and methodical, he can from memory cite many points in connection with the duties of the position, and he has everything so arranged that if necessary he can refer to documents at a moment's notice. No official of Lee county has been more loyal to duty or deserves in larger measure the goodwill, confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen.

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### WILLIAM B. McMAHAN.

On the roster of county officials in Lee county appears the name of William B. McMahan, who in 1904 was elected circuit clerk and ex-officio recorder of deeds, in which capacity he has since served, covering a period of nine years. He has been a lifelong resident of Lee county and is a representative of one of its pioneer families. His parents were William and Sarah A. (Clark) McMahan and his paternal grandparents were Benjamin and Esther J. (Brearley) McMahan, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father, also born in the east, came to Lee county in 1854 and for a year was engaged in teaching school. He afterward went to Minnesota, where he spent five years in the employ of the government, but in 1860 returned to this county and engaged in farming in Wyoming township, his persistent and carefully directed labors transforming his land into productive fields. He continued active in the work of the farm until he was appointed county surveyor in 1864. He filled that office until 1882, or for a period of eighteen years and his service in other positions was extended, as for five terms he was township supervisor, for seven terms was township assessor and served for a number of years as chairman of the county board of supervisors. His public record was indeed commendable and won for him the approval and good-will of all. In Masonic circles he had a wide acquaintance, having attained high rank in the York Rite as a member of the lodge, chapter and commandery.

William B. McMahan was reared in this county, obtained a public-school education and in 1896 entered upon his official duties as deputy recorder. He also served as county surveyor for four years. In 1904 he was elected circuit clerk and ex-officio recorder of deeds, which position he has since acceptably filled. No trust

reposed in him is ever betrayed in the slightest degree, his loyalty standing as one of his salient characteristics.

Mr. McMahan was united in marriage October 10, 1895, to Eunice E. Thompson, a daughter of James H. and Catherine J. (Swarthout) Thompson, prominent pioneers. Mr. McMahan is active in fraternal circles being a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., and a charter member of the Elks lodge of which he was the first secretary, serving for four years. He is past exalted ruler of the Elks lodge and served for three years on the executive committee of the State Association of Elks. He represents one of the old families of the county and has himself been for a long period of years one of the interested witnesses of the growth and progress of this section of the state.

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### FRED N. VAUGHAN.

Fred N. Vaughan, whose name figures prominently in connection with the business development of Amboy, has, since March 17, 1906, been president of the First National Bank. His record stands in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, for he has always lived in this city, where he has carefully directed his efforts and guided his business interests, until he now stands at the head of one of its foremost financial institutions. He was born February 1, 1865, and is a son of C. D. and Louise M. (Baleh) Vaughan. The family is of Welsh lineage and was founded in America during the seventeenth century, Benjamin Vaughan, the great great-grandfather of our subject coming to this country from Wales. His son and namesake, Benjamin Vaughan, at the age of seventeen years joined the New Hampshire state troops and later served in the continental army during the Revolutionary war. C. D. Vaughan was a pioneer merchant of Amboy, dealing in furniture for many years and was also mayor of the city and treasurer of Amboy township for an extended period. His worth was widely acknowledged by all who knew ought of his history. He died in 1886 at the age of fifty-six years, while his widow still survives and yet makes her home in Amboy.

Fred N. Vaughan attended the public schools of Amboy to the age of seventeen years, when he secured a position as messenger for the Illinois Central Railroad. Subsequently he acted as clerk

in the office of the division superintendent and resigned that position to become general factotum in the private bank of Josiah Little. He has since been continuously connected with the bank, advancing from one position to another as he has proved his capability and has mastered the duties devolving upon him. He served for a time as bookkeeper, later as assistant cashier, subsequently became vice president and eventually was chosen president. The First National Bank of Amboy succeeded the private bank of Josiah Little which was organized in 1868 and is the oldest bank in the city. It is also one of the strongest financial institutions of the county and from the beginning has enjoyed a substantial growth resultant from its safe policy and progressive methods.

In Amboy on the 23d of November, 1887, Mr. Vaughan was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Poland, a daughter of A. J. and Carrie (Potter) Poland. Her father was train master of the Illinois Central Railroad and one of the old settlers of Amboy. He passed away January 17, 1903, at the age of seventy-one years, having for a long period survived his wife, who died February 8, 1879, at the age of forty-one years. Both were laid to rest in Graceland cemetery of Chicago. One of the ancestors of Mrs. Vaughan on the maternal side belonged to the Culver family and came from England to America on the Mayflower. A descendant of the name of Sarah became the wife of Jonathan Woodworth, who figured in the Revolutionary war. Benjamin Poland was born in Maine in 1784 and was the grandfather of Mrs. Vaughan. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan: Glenn P., a student in the University of Illinois; Jeanette L., who was formerly a student in the college of Rockford, Illinois; and Fred N., who is attending the Amboy high school.

The family occupy an attractive home which was erected by Mr. Vaughan and it has been since he became president of the bank that the fine bank building was erected. He has been honored with a number of local offices by his fellow townsmen, who appreciate his worth and public spirit. For three terms he served as alderman and is now mayor of the city and a member of the board of education. In the former position he is discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity, giving to the city a business-like and progressive administration, while in the latter office he proves himself indeed a friend to the public schools. Mr. Vaughan is prominent in Masonic circles. He holds membership with the lodge and chapter at Amboy, the commandery at Dixon, the con-

sistory at Freeport and the mystic shrine at Rockford, Illinois. He also affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Elks lodge at Dixon and he is a trustee of the Congregational church of Amboy.

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### CHARLES GIBBS.

Among the most highly honored residents of Paw Paw is Charles Gibbs, who after a successful career as agriculturist and teacher now lives retired in this city at the age of seventy-two years. Moreover, there is due Mr. Gibbs veneration as one of those who donned the blue uniform at the time when the union of this country was imperiled by southern secession. Mr. Gibbs still owns a valuable farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres, which he rents to his son Eugene. While a resident of La Salle county, this state, he prominently participated in public life but since coming to Lee county he has not again entered politics. He comes of an old American family, his great-grandfather, Pelatiah Gibbs, having been a loyal soldier of Washington's corps during the Revolutionary war. For eighteen years Mr. Gibbs has been a resident of Lee county and during that time he has gained the greatest confidence and highest regard of all his fellow citizens who have had the honor of meeting him.

Charles Gibbs was born in Livermore, Androscoggin county, Maine, February 25, 1841, and is a son of Pelatiah and Anna (Norton) Gibbs. The father followed agricultural pursuits in Maine and removed subsequently to La Salle county, Illinois, where he arrived in 1867. He there continued successfully along the same line and passed away on November 4, 1879.

Charles Gibbs was reared under the parental roof and received his education in his native state. Later he assisted his father in the farm work and also taught school and hired out as a farm hand, being engaged along these various lines until the peril of the Union decided him to enlist and he joined Company E, Thirty-second Regiment, Maine Volunteers. The date of his enlistment was February 25, 1864, and he was honorably discharged December 12, of the same year. He served as first sergeant and was also in command of his company, and in that connection was in charge during the famous mine explosion before Petersburg on July 30, 1864, and was wounded during that action in his left side. Upon



his honorable discharge at the end of the year 1864 he returned to the family home. He remained there until March 6, 1865, when the opportunities of the west induced him to leave for Minnesota, where he spent some time in Winona county. He then made his way to Quincy, Illinois, teaching school there. In the month of August, 1866, he went to Ophir township, La Salle county, his father and the remainder of the family joining him in 1867. In the course of years Mr. Gibbs became the owner of a farm in Iroquois county, Illinois, and also rented land in Ophir township, following agricultural pursuits with gratifying results. In 1894 he bought land in Wyoming township, this county, his property bordering on the corporation of Paw Paw. He has made Lee county his permanent residence since March 1, 1895. His farm comprises one hundred and seventy-five acres and there he engaged for a number of years in general farming and dairying, his successful methods being evident from the fact that he is now able to live in retirement and in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence. His son was the first man to bottle and deliver milk in Paw Paw. He always followed the most progressive and modern standards in the operation of his agricultural enterprise and, while he has attained to individual prosperity, has been a factor in promoting agricultural interests and standards in this section. He now rents his farm to his son, Eugene, who continues its operation with gratifying financial results.

On February 14, 1869, Mr. Gibbs was married, at Livermore, Maine, to Miss Mary W. Harlow, daughter of Alvin C. and Rosetta B. (Beard) Harlow, the former of whom was for many years a successful merchant at Livermore Center, Maine. He died December 12, 1899, his wife having preceded him September 19, 1879. Both are buried at Auburn, Androscoggin county, Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have two children: Carroll H., a merchant of Paw Paw; and Eugene N., who operates his father's farm. Mrs. Gibbs is also of Revolutionary stock, one of her ancestors, a Mr. Washburn, having participated in that memorable conflict. She is a member of the Eastern Star and the Women's Relief Corps, being deeply interested in the cause of temperance and the higher things of life.

Mr. Gibbs has always given his allegiance to the democratic party, in the principles of which he firmly believes and the ideals of which he considers most conducive to the best form of government. For five terms he served as supervisor of La Salle county and also held the offices of assessor and director of the board of



education, his continued connection with public office giving evidence of the high regard which was entertained for him by the general public while a resident of that part of the state. Since coming to Lee county he has not again entered politics, although he is deeply interested in all measures that are undertaken for the general welfare, and is ever ready to give his active support to such objects as will make for progress and advancement along intellectual, moral and material lines. Fraternally he is a blue lodge Mason and a popular member of the Grand Army of the Republic, serving at present as adjutant of William H. Thompson Post, No. 308. Mr. Gibbs is one of the venerable citizens of Lee county and the general high regard which is conceded him is well merited.

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#### E. A. SICKELS, M. D.

Dr. E. A. Sickels, a medical practitioner of Dixon of the homeopathic school and well versed in all the intricacies and scientific phases of the profession, was born in Lee county in 1866, his parents being E. C. and Caroline (Dunham) Sickels. The father came to Lee county in 1862 from Indianapolis and the following year he brought his family. Representatives of the Sickels family have lived in Indianapolis since the founding of that city. Rev. E. C. Sickels was a minister of the Presbyterian church and for thirty-seven years filled a pastorate at Dixon, his labors constituting a most forceful and important element in the moral progress of the city. He was an earnest and convincing speaker but taught perhaps no more through precept than by his upright godly life, which embodied the teachings that he so earnestly strove to impress upon the minds of his hearers. That he was so long retained in a single pastorate is proof of the fact that he was neither denied the full harvest nor the aftermath of his labors. He died in the year 1909 and his memory remains as a blessed benediction to all who knew him. His widow survives and makes her home in this city. They had a family of five children.

Dr. Sickels, after benefitting by the educational opportunities offered in the public schools, entered Dixon College and there completed his general education, graduating from the scientific department. He then served ten years as a railroad postal clerk.



DR. E. A. SICKELS



During the last four years he attended the Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago and graduated in 1897. For a year thereafter he practiced in that city as interne in the Hahnemann Hospital and then returned to Dixon, opening an office. He is conscientious and faithful in the discharge of his professional duties and, specializing in surgery and obstetrics, has done much important work in these difficult branches of the profession. He is a member of the Lee County Medical Society, the Rock River Institute of Homeopathy, the Illinois State Homeopathic Medical Society, the American Institute of Homeopathy and of the American Medical Association.

In 1901 Dr. Sickels was united in marriage to Miss Jeanne Wood, of Des Moines, Iowa, and they are pleasantly located in an attractive home in Dixon, the hospitality of which is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Dr. Sickels is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He finds his chief recreation in hunting and when leisure gives him opportunity he makes trips to various sections, having shot big game all over America. He is never neglectful of his professional obligations, however, and is continually promoting his efficiency through broad reading and research.

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### CLARENCE E. DRUMMOND.

Clarence E. Drummond, a successful farmer of Lee county, owning and operating forty acres of excellent land in Ashton township, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, July 9, 1878. He is a son of Benton P. and Henrietta (Tilton) Drummond, also natives of Ogle county.

Clarence E. Drummond was reared at home and remained upon his father's farm until he was of age. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits upon rented land for ten years and at the end of that time moved to Lee county and bought the property upon which he now lives. He has forty acres in Ashton township and has made substantial improvements upon this farm, providing it with modern buildings and equipment. The place is in a high state of cultivation and its owner is ranked among the successful and progressive farmers of his locality.

In 1903 Mr. Drummond was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Trainor, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, a daughter of

Charles and Emily (Plantz) Trainor, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Lee county. Both have passed away. To their union were born five children, of whom four are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Drummond have two children: Helen A. and Verl Otto. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Drummond gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He holds the office of school director and he is at all times progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, taking an active interest in community affairs. He is accounted one of the extensive landowners and progressive farmers of Ashton township and has the unqualified confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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### E. J. FERGUSON.

Prominent among the energetic, farsighted and capable business men of Dixon is E. J. Ferguson, a hardware merchant, whose enterprise and laudable ambition have constituted the foundation upon which he has built his success. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, in 1875 and after acquiring a public-school education devoted his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits. He carried on farming near Pontiac, Illinois, until nearly twenty-five years of age and then removed to Greene county, Iowa, where he spent about five years in general farming. On the expiration of that period he returned to Pontiac, where he became connected with commercial interests, spending one year as clerk in a hardware store. He then embarked in the hardware business on his own account at Marseilles, Illinois, where he remained for three years, and in 1909 he came to Dixon, seeking here a broader field of labor. Here he soon placed on sale a large stock of hardware and the success of the enterprise is indicated in the fact that he found it necessary to secure larger quarters and did so by purchasing the business of The Gunn Company in 1911. He now carries a full and well selected line of shelf and heavy hardware and his trade is extensive and gratifying. His business methods are such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and his even-paced energy has carried him into important relations with the commercial interests of Dixon.

In 1897 Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Wassom, a native of Pontiac, Illinois, and unto them have been



born four daughters and a son. The family attend the Methodist church, of which Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson are members. In politics he is a progressive republican and fraternally is a Royal Arch Mason and a Modern Woodman. Starting out in life without any vaulting ambition to accomplish something especially great or famous, he has followed the lead of his opportunities, doing as best he could anything that came to hand and seizing legitimate advantages as they arose. He has never hesitated to take a forward step when the way has been open. Though content with what he attained as he went along, he was always ready to make an advance. Fortunate in possessing ability and character that inspired confidence in others, the simple weight of his character and ability have carried him into important relations with large interests and he is now at the head of one of the leading commercial enterprises of the city.

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#### GEORGE ALEXANDER LYMAN.

Among the men of force, experience and capacity who have for many years past influenced the trend of general development in Lee county is numbered George Alexander Lyman, who since 1889 has owned and edited the Amboy Journal, which by reason of his excellent journalistic work he has made powerful as a director of public thought and opinion. His interests have extended to many other fields, touching closely the political and social life of the community, and his name has come to be regarded as synonymous with advancement and reform. He was born in Winchester, New Hampshire, June 26, 1838, and is a son of Tertius Alexander and Sarah Pierce (Coddington) Lyman, the former a carpenter and joiner and house builder. He came to Illinois in 1856 and died at Amboy, February 5, 1900, at the age of eighty-eight. The Lyman family is very ancient and can be traced back in the official English records to Wodin, king of North Europe in the third century, about 225 A. D. The line includes such illustrious representatives as Hengist, king of Saxons, A. D. 434; Cerdic, the first king of West Saxons, who died A. D. 534; Alfred the Great, king of England, A. D. 871; William, the Conqueror, A. D. 1066; Lady Isabel de Vermandois; Robert, second Earl of Leicester; Hugh Capet, king of France, A. D. 987; Charlemagne, emperor of the West; Saier de Quincey, Earl of

Winchester, one of the twenty-five barons that stood surety for the observance of the Magna Charta by King John at Runnymede, A. D. 1215. The American progenitor was Richard Lyman, who was born at High Ongar, England, in 1580 and who emigrated to America in August, 1631. He landed at Boston, November 11th and became a settler in Charlestown. On October 15, 1635, he went with a party of about one hundred persons and became one of the first settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, and one of the original proprietors of the town. He died in August, 1641, and his name is inscribed on a stone column now standing in the rear of the Center church of Hartford, erected in memory of the first settlers of the city. His son, Richard Lyman II, was born in England in 1617 and came to America with his father. He moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1655 and died there in 1662. His grandson, Joshua Lyman, served upwards of fourteen years in the Colonial wars, holding the commission of lieutenant in the British army. He married Miss Sarah Narmon, and their son, Captain Seth Lyman, served six years in the Revolutionary war. Captain Seth Lyman's son, Tertius Lyman, was also a member of the Continental army during the last two years of the war. He had one son, Tertius Alexander Lyman, father of the subject of this review and the founder of the family in Illinois.

George A. Lyman acquired his primary education in the public schools of Winchester and completed his studies in Northfield Institute at Northfield, Massachusetts, from which he was graduated in the fall of 1855. He accompanied his parents to Lee county, Illinois, in the following year and afterward assisted with the work of the farm upon which his father settled after his arrival. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age and then purchased land from his father, continuing active in agricultural pursuits until 1889, when he moved to Amboy, becoming proprietor and editor of the Journal. Since that time he has made this one of the leading newspapers in the state, advocating in its columns many measures of advancement and reform and making its influence a vital factor in community growth.

In Bradford, Lee county, February 13, 1865. Mr. Lyman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Eliza Jones, a daughter of James and Margaret Jones, pioneer farmers of this locality. Both have passed away and are buried in the Woodside cemetery, Lee Center. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman have two children. James Alexander is professor of chemistry in Pomona College, Claremont, California. He holds the degrees of A. B., M. A. and Ph. D., con-

ferred by Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, and Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. His birth occurred October 17, 1866, and on June 7, 1897, he married Miss Ethel Anna Skinner, of Portland, Oregon. They have become the parents of three children: Mary Ethel, born July 8, 1899; Ida Grace, whose birth occurred on the 14th of April, 1902; and George Porter, born in 1906. George Richard, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Lyman, was born December 1, 1871. He took the degrees of A. B., M. A. and Ph. D. from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is now assistant professor of botany in Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. On June 23, 1903, he married Miss Frances Ella Badger and they have become the parents of one child, Mavis K. Lyman, born October 16, 1907.

Mr. Lyman is a member of the Congregational church, is a blue lodge Mason, and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is a member of the Baronial Order of Runnymede, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Sons of the American Revolution. He has been town clerk, assessor, justice of the peace and township trustee; and since March 1, 1898, has served as postmaster of Amboy, discharging his duties in a capable and practical manner. His fourth term as postmaster will expire April 25, 1914. During the half-century he has lived in the community he has done all in his power to promote its interests and his record is a credit to an honored and worthy name.

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### HERBERT W. HARMS.

Herbert W. Harms, identified with commercial interests in Dixon as manager for the Wilbur Lumber Company, was born in Lee county, Illinois, April 20, 1884, and is therefore still a young man. His parents were Antone W. and Mary (Ahrens) Harms, the former of whom was a son of Antone W. Harms, one of the pioneer settlers in Lee county. Removing from the east to Illinois, he settled in Palmyra township at a period when the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun in this section of the state. Since that time the name of Harms has figured in connection with the upbuilding of the county and has always been synonymous with progressive action and substantial improvement.

Herbert W. Harms acquired a public-school education and when not busy with his text-books worked in the fields for his father, who was a farmer. When his education was completed he too took up farm work, to which he devoted his energies until 1906, when at the age of twenty-two years he entered the employ of the Wilbur Lumber Company in the capacity of bookkeeper. He worked his way upward, mastering the details and factors of the business until his capability led to his promotion to the position of manager on the 1st of September, 1907. He has since been active in control of the business, which is one of the important commercial concerns of Dixon, and thus he has gained a place among the representative young business men of the city.

On the 18th of August, 1908, Mr. Harms was united in marriage to Miss Belle Floto, a native of Dixon, and they have a daughter, Helen, born in October, 1910. Mr. Harms exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is now exalted ruler of Dixon Lodge, No. 779, B. P. O. E. He has a wide acquaintance and his social qualities as well as his business ability have won him popularity and high regard.

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### CHARLES W. ROSS.

Charles W. Ross, owning and operating a farm of one hundred and ninety-two acres in Bradford and Amboy townships, was born on this property February 22, 1870. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Aschenbrenner) Ross, natives of Germany, who came to America in the '50s. The father at first worked as a farm laborer and later purchased land in Lee county, where he resided until his death. He and his wife became the parents of six children, of whom five are yet living.

Charles W. Ross was reared upon his father's farm in Bradford township and acquired his education in the public schools. When he was twenty-one years of age he rented the homestead and later bought the property, whereon he still resides. The farm comprises one hundred and ninety-two acres and is well equipped in every particular, provided with substantial buildings and modern machinery. Mr. Ross is a progressive and able agriculturist and has made some substantial contributions to farming interests of





CHARLES W. ROSS





this locality. In addition to his home farm he owns three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land in Pocahontas county, Iowa.

In 1905 Mr. Ross was united in marriage to Miss Anna Brewer, a native of Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of G. W. and Mary (Ford) Brewer, residents of Lee Center. Mr. and Mrs. Ross are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Ross is connected fraternally with Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, A. F. & A. M., and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He served for ten years as township assessor, but at present his attention is centered upon the management of his business interests, in which he is meeting with gratifying and well deserved success.

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#### R. G. JACOBS.

R. G. Jacobs, prominently connected with business interests of Franklin Grove as the proprietor of a first-class livery, was born in Pennsylvania, August 22, 1868. He is a son of A. S. and Louise N. (Newcumber) Jacobs, also natives of the Keystone state. The parents moved to Lee county, Illinois, in 1869, and settled in Franklin Grove, where the father engaged in the blacksmith business until his death. He was also well known in public affairs and served as postmaster of the town for several years.

One of a family of five sons, R. G. Jacobs remained at home until 1891 and then went east to Massachusetts, where he maintained his residence until 1909. In that year he returned to Franklin Grove in order to care for his mother in her old age and he established himself in the livery business, with which he has since been connected. He has a number of excellent vehicles, including a fine line of automobiles, and in connection with this operates also a feed and sale barn. His business methods have been at all times straightforward and honorable and in consequence his patronage has increased rapidly, being of extensive proportions at the present time. Mr. Jacobs owns his business building and also a comfortable and attractive home in Franklin Grove. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is interested and active in public affairs, cooperating heartily in all progressive public movements. His integrity in business and his

public-spirited citizenship have made him widely known in this locality and have gained him the esteem and confidence of all who are in any way associated with him.

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### O. H. MARTIN.

O. H. Martin is individual proprietor of a dry-goods store in Dixon and is treasurer of a syndicate owning twenty-six stores in the middle west. The story of his life is that of orderly progression under the steady hand of one who is a consistent master of himself and whose qualities and characteristics are well balanced. His strong character inspires confidence in others and his mature judgment makes correct estimate of his own capacities and powers and of the people and circumstances that make up his life's contacts and experiences. He has thus become a leading merchant of Dixon while his ramifying trade interests, reaching out over the country now cover a wide territory.

Mr. Martin was born in Lee county, February 23, 1866, and is a son of Oliver H. and Catherine (Whipple) Martin, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Massachusetts. The paternal grandfather was one of the pioneer settlers of Lee county, taking up his abode here in 1833—a year after the Black Hawk war had settled the question of Indian supremacy in Illinois. The few homes in Lee county were then largely log cabins. Much of the prairie was still unclaimed and uncultivated and it seemed that the work of development and progress had scarcely been begun. Oliver H. Martin, who was a lad at the time of the arrival in Illinois was reared upon the frontier with the usual experiences incident to pioneer life. He became a school teacher and afterward went to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where in 1867 he took up the study of medicine. Having qualified for the profession he engaged in practice successfully for many years but is now living retired at Kewaunee, Wisconsin. He has long survived his wife, who died in 1886.

O. H. Martin, whose name introduces this review, acquired his early education in the public schools and with experience as his teacher learned many valuable lessons. In early manhood he became connected with mercantile interests at Merrill, Wisconsin, and afterward engaged in the same line of business at Hurley, that state, working for various firms.

Subsequently he was at Rockford, Illinois, and in 1893 he opened a dry goods store at Sycamore, Illinois. From that point his career has been a successful one and branching out he is now identified with a syndicate that controls twenty-six stores. Of this syndicate W. M. McAllister is the president with Mr. Martin as treasurer. These stores all buy together, enabling them to make advantageous purchases and profitable sales and yet keep to reasonable prices. Mr. Martin is interested in five of the stores and thus his business affairs have become extensive and important. In 1905 he established a dry-goods store in Dixon, of which he is sole proprietor, handling dry goods and ready-to-wear garments. His life has been one of intense activity in which has been accorded due recognition of labor and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of the county. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Dixon and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

In 1890 Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Harriet E. Jones, of Warsaw, Wisconsin, and they have one daughter, Grace Agnes, at home. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Martin belongs to several fraternal organizations, including the Masons, Elks and Knights of Pythias. In the first named he has attained the Knight Templar degree in the York Rite and has also become a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. In politics he is an independent republican, usually indorsing the principles of the party, yet not feeling himself bound by party ties. He is a man of well balanced mind, even temper and his enterprising spirit is well balanced by conservative habits. These qualities are such as lead to great accomplishments. He has never feared to venture where favoring opportunity is presented and his judgment and even paced energy generally carry him forward to the goal of success.

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### C. M. ATKINSON.

Agricultural pursuits claim the time and energies of C. M. Atkinson, a representative young resident of Amboy township, who rents a productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10. His birth occurred in China township, Lee county.

on the 2d of January, 1888, his parents being William and Augusta (Skinner) Atkinson, who are among the well known and respected residents of Amboy. He had but limited educational opportunities in early life, attending school only until eight years of age, but has become a well informed man through reading, experience and observation. On leaving the Amboy school he began assisting his father in the operation of the home place, thus early becoming familiar with the work of the fields. It was in 1908 that he rented the farm which he now operates and which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Amboy township. The land is rich and productive and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon them. In addition to the cultivation of cereals he also devotes considerable attention to live-stock interests, keeping about sixteen horses, twenty-eight cattle and thirty-five hogs.

In Amboy, on the 23d of October, 1912, Mr. Atkinson was united in marriage to Miss Lena Herzfeldt, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Herzfeldt. The father makes his home in Chicago, but the mother has passed away. Our subject purchased his home, which is a pleasing and substantial residence. In politics Mr. Atkinson is a stanch republican, while his religious faith is that of the United Brethren church. He has always resided within the borders of Lee county and enjoys an enviable reputation as one of its representative young agriculturists and progressive citizens.

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### LEE B. SWINGLEY, M. D. C.

Dr. Lee B. Swingley, controlling a large practice as a veterinary surgeon in Dixon, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, April 30, 1886. He is a son of Oscar and Alice (Lewis) Swingley. The father was a pioneer farmer and a native of Ogle county, Illinois. The mother was born in Herkimer county, New York, and came to Illinois when she was a child. The father died in Ogle county, Illinois, August 26, 1903 while the mother passed away in Seattle, August 9, 1913. To their union were born four children: George A., now residing in Seattle, Washington; Lee B., of this review; Mary Ada, the wife of Joseph Hearn, a resident of the state of Washington; and Florence M., deceased.





DR. LEE B. SWINGLEY



Lee B. Swingley was reared in Ogle county and remained at home until he was twenty years of age. He then went to Chicago, where he entered a veterinary college, graduating in the spring of 1909. He began the practice of his profession in Polo, and Oregon and after a short time he moved to Dixon, where he is now located. He controls a large and growing patronage, for he is thoroughly versed in the underlying principles of his profession and his ability is widely recognized and respected. Dr. Swingley owns a third interest in three hundred and twenty acres of land in Ogle county and has shown himself competent and able in the management of his interests.

In April, 1909, Dr. Swingley was united in marriage to Miss Adessa L. Goodrich, a native of Oregon, Illinois, and a daughter of George W. and Mary F. (Steele) Goodrich. Dr. and Mrs. Swingley have become the parents of a daughter, Evelyn L. They are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church and Dr. Swingley gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is ambitious, energetic and progressive and although he is still a young man, occupies a prominent place in the ranks of his chosen profession.

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#### A. H. HANNEKEN.

A. H. Hanneken, one of the younger representatives of the county bar, is a native of Calhoun county, Illinois. He was born December 29, 1884, and is a son of Herman and Elizabeth Hanneken, who are still residing in Calhoun county, where the father is filling the office of county commissioner. He located there in 1859 and in the intervening period has maintained a position as one of the leading and influential residents of that part of the state. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability have elected him to the office of coroner and he has also served as county sheriff. A. H. Hanneken was a public-school student in his native county and supplemented his course there by study in Dixon College, completing a course in law by graduation with the class of 1905. The following year he was admitted to the bar and returned to Dixon, and was associated with J. W. Watts as stenographer until May, 1909. In that year he entered into the practice of law in Dixon. His practice is extensive and of an important character for one of his years. The court records show

that he has won many verdicts favorable to the interests of his clients.

Mr. Hanneken is a democrat in his political views, while his fraternal connections are with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Many of the friendships which he formed in his college days here still continue and the circle of his friends broadens year by year as he becomes better known, his sterling traits of character insuring him the warm regard and good-will of all with whom he is brought in contact.

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### CLIFFORD G. LUCKEY.

A fine property of three hundred and two acres on sections 23 and 26, Ashton township, known as the Ashton Stock Farm, is owned and operated by Clifford G. Luckey and his capable and intelligent management of the property has gained him a place among the leading agriculturists of this vicinity. He was born upon this farm November 8, 1879, and is a son of George H. and Eldora (Teal) Luckey, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. Both passed away in Lee county. To their union were born two children: Clifford G., of this review; and Elton, a resident of Minnesota.

Clifford G. Luckey was reared at home and at an early age became familiar with the details of farm operation, having aided from childhood with the conduct of his father's homestead. When he was twenty-one years of age he purchased the property, which comprises three hundred and two acres on sections 23 and 26, Ashton township. It is known as the Ashton Stock Farm and is a valuable property in every particular, reflecting the intelligent care and constant supervision which the owner has expended upon it. In addition to his homestead Mr. Luckey owns also fifteen acres of valuable timber land in Ogle county, Illinois.

In 1900 Mr. Luckey was united in marriage to Miss Mary Krug, who was born in Lee county, a daughter of Casper and Julia Krug, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Lee county. They now make their home in Dixon, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Luckey have become the parents of three children: Elmer H., who was born September 12, 1903; Alice E., born April 16, 1907, and Roland G., whose birth occurred June 30, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Luckey belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Both

are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and Mr. Luckey is affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic lodge. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party. His attention is, however, confined largely to his farming interests, in the management of which he has met with gratifying and well deserved success.

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### EDWARD VAILE.

Edward Vaile, a well known merchant of Dixon, now senior partner in the firm of Vaile & O'Malley, owes his success not to any fortunate combination of circumstances, but to his perseverance and industry, intelligently directed. Dixon is his birthplace, his natal year being 1874. He is a son of John and Mary (Vaughan) Vaile, who in 1864 came to Lee county, settling on a farm south of Dixon.

In his boyhood days Edward Vaile was a pupil in the public schools of his native city and later had the advantage of a course in Dixon college. He entered upon his present business in March, 1901, organizing the firm of Vaile & O'Malley, his partner in the enterprise being George F. O'Malley. This connection has since continued. They deal in clothing, shoes and men's furnishing goods. Their store was originally located at 204 West First street, but since then their growing trade has necessitated two removals and in 1909 they came to their present place of business where they occupy a large building with a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of ninety feet. They carry a large and attractive line of goods and employ five people to take care of their trade. Mr. Vaile is also owner of two other stores, one at Sterling, Illinois, which was established in 1907 and another at De Kalb, established in 1913. Thus he is gradually extending his business connections and already ranks with the leading merchants of this part of the state. His judgment is sound, his discrimination keen and his close conformity to high business standards has also been one of the strong elements of his success.

Mr. Vaile was married to Miss Anna Hennessey, a native of Dixon and they occupy an attractive home which is the abode of warm-hearted hospitality. They hold membership in the Catholic church and Mr. Vaile belongs to the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Elks and he gives his political support to



the democratic party. The terms progress and patriotism might be considered the keynote of his character, for throughout his career he has labored for the improvement of every line of business or public interest with which he has been identified and at all times has been actuated by fidelity to his city and her welfare.

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### JOSEPH W. STAPLES.

Joseph W. Staples, engaged in the undertaking business in Dixon, is a representative of two of the pioneer families of this section of the state. He was born at Grand Detour, March 28, 1871, his parents being Elbridge G. and Lizzie (Ling) Staples, the latter a daughter of Joseph Ling, who was the first engineer of the Grand Detour Plow Works. He was one of the pioneer residents of this district, coming to the middle west from Maine. The paternal grandfather, William Staples, was also a native of Maine and came to Illinois during an early period in its development. He, too, was connected with the plow works and both the Ling and Staples families were thus actively associated with the early industrial development of Grand Detour. Elbridge G. Staples likewise became an employe of the plow company, remaining in that service for many years as one of its most trusted, efficient and capable representatives. At length, however, he retired from active business and went to California, where his last days were passed. Both he and his father were soldiers in the Civil war, enlisting as members of Company F, Thirty-fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, soon after the opening of hostilities. The grandfather was the first man in the Thirty-fourth Illinois Regiment shot in the battle of Shiloh. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge G. Staples were born three children, one of whom died at the age of eight years, while a daughter, Daisy, became the wife of Samuel Stakemiller, of Sterling, Illinois, and is now deceased.

Joseph W. Staples, the youngest and the only living representative of the family, acquired a public-school education and started in business life as an employe of the firm of Camp & Son, furniture dealers of Dixon, on the 1st of March, 1886. That he was diligent, trustworthy and industrious is indicated in the fact that he remained with that house for seventeen years. At length he determined to engage in business for himself and in 1903

opened an undertaking establishment in Dixon which he has since conducted. The decade that has followed has been marked by growing success in his business and he is today one of the leading undertakers of the city.

On the 20th of September, 1892, Mr. Staples was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth E. Powell, of Dixon, a daughter of John Powell, who was a veteran of the Civil war, serving in Cheney's Battery. Mr. Staples is a charter member of the Elks' lodge of Dixon and also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political views accord with the principles of the republican party but he has never felt inclined to hold office, his business cares fully occupying his time and attention. Not by leaps and bounds but by steady progression has he gained the measure of success which is now his. He is well known as a citizen of Dixon and his many good qualities have gained him the warm friendship of those with whom he has been associated.

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### GUST KRIES.

Since 1893 Gust Kries has owned and operated a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 23, Ashton township, and through his enterprise and ability in the management of this property has gained a place among the substantial and prosperous agriculturists of the community. He was born in Germany, January 27, 1865, and is a son of Adam and Elizabeth Kries, also natives of that country. The family came to America in 1873, locating in Lee county, Illinois. The parents now make their home upon a farm in Reynolds township. To their union were born three children, all of whom are yet living.

Gust Kries was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the district schools. He remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age and then rented a farm, upon which he remained for five years, after which he purchased the property which he now owns. He has two hundred and forty acres on section 23, Ashton township, and he gives his attention to general farming, meeting with that success which always follows earnest and persistent labor.

On the 20th of March, 1887, Mr. Kries was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Bowers, a native of Lee county, Illinois, and a daughter of Wolf and Christina Bowers, both of whom

were born in Germany. They came to America at an early date and both died in this country. To their union were born nine children, of whom seven survive. Mr. and Mrs. Kries have five children: Martha E. M., the wife of Fred Reinhart, of South Dakota; Lena E., at home; William F.; Ella C.; and George W. Mr. Kries is a regular attendant at the Evangelical church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is a member of the board of school directors and has held this position for fifteen years, the cause of education finding in him an able and earnest supporter. He is one of Lee county's progressive and successful native sons and is held in high regard and esteem wherever he is known.

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### HARRY EDWARDS.

Occupying an enviable position in the front rank of the members of the Dixon bar is Harry Edwards, who since 1902 has engaged in the practice of law in Lee county. He was born in Friend, Nebraska, June 27, 1880, his parents being William H. and Eva A. (LaPorte) Edwards. The father was a merchant at Paw Paw, Illinois, for some time. He is now living retired, enjoying a well earned rest, the fruit of his former toil. He has always been interested in the political situation and has held some local offices, serving as supervisor of Dixon for four years.

It was during his early youth that Harry Edwards was brought to Lee county and in the high school of Dixon he pursued his education until graduated with the class of 1898. He afterward attended Dixon College, where his more specifically literary course was completed and later he entered the University of Wisconsin, where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1902 and located for practice in Dixon, where he has since remained. The same year he was made assistant state's attorney and acceptably served in that capacity until 1908, when he was elected state's attorney and was reelected in 1912. He carefully safeguards the legal interests of the county, and his long connection with the office is proof of both his capability and fidelity.

Mr. Edwards has been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and his opinions carry weight in party councils. For two years he served as secretary of the republican county central committee. He is connected with the Benevolent



HARRY EDWARDS





Protective Order of Elks and with the Modern Woodmen of the World, and has in those organizations many friends, but his popularity is by no means confined thereto. Wherever he is known his good qualities have gained him high regard and he is an alert, energetic young man, his activities being typical of the times and of the progress which characterizes the age.

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### WILLIAM H. BEND.

William H. Bend, engaging in mixed farming upon three hundred and fifty acres of land on section 2, Wyoming township, was born in Shabona township, DeKalb county, Illinois, January 11, 1877. He is a son of Richard and Aurelia (Kittle) Bend, the former a native of England, who came to America about the year 1868, settling in DeKalb county. After renting land for a number of years he became the owner of a fine farm and is now in possession of three hundred and forty acres. He and his wife still reside in DeKalb county, where they are well known and highly respected.

William H. Bend acquired his education in his native county and also in the public schools of Paw Paw, Illinois. He laid aside his books at the age of eighteen and afterward assisted his father with the work of the farm until 1896. In that year he became salesman for L. W. Wheeler & Company, implement merchants, and after holding this position for one year rented a farm in Lee county. He afterward rented land in DeKalb county and after developing this for four years returned to Lee county, buying his present property. He owns three hundred and fifty acres of excellent land in Wyoming township and here raises grain and stock, both branches of his activities proving important and profitable under his able management.

On the 7th of October, 1898, Mr. Bend married Miss Laura Roberts, a daughter of Henry and Eva (Cornell) Roberts, the former for a number of years a prominent farmer of Lee county. He died May 30, 1910, having survived his wife three years, and both are buried in Wyoming cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Bend have four children, Evelyn, Harold, Bertha and William, all of whom are attending school.

Mr. Bend is a republican in his political views and takes an intelligent interest in the welfare and growth of the community.

His success is directly attributable to his industry, enterprise and capable management and he holds the esteem and respect of an extensive circle of friends.

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### GEORGE F. PRESCOTT.

George F. Prescott, who since 1909 has been secretary and treasurer of the Leake Brothers Company, Inc., of Dixon, his native city, was born in 1875, his parents being Hollis and Nancy Adams (Williams) Prescott, the latter a daughter of George Williams, who brought his family to Lee county during the pioneer epoch in the history of this part of the state. Hollis Prescott arrived in Lee county when a young man of about nineteen years, following his brothers, who had previously come here from Salem, Massachusetts. He was a representative of one of the old New England families and, attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, he made his way to Dixon, where for a long period he was engaged in business as a mason and contractor. In this connection he was prominently identified with building operations for a number of years and substantial structures of the city still stand as monuments to his enterprise and skill. In 1877 he went to Cherokee, Iowa, where he remained for eleven years and then returned to Dixon in 1888. Here he still makes his home but is living retired, spending the evening of his life in the enjoyment of a well earned rest.

George F. Prescott supplemented a public-school course by a year's study in the Northwestern University, where he prepared for work along pharmaceutical lines. He then came to Dixon and was connected with the drug house of J. W. Watts for several years, during which time he thoroughly acquainted himself with all the practical phases of the business. In 1909 he was made secretary and treasurer of the Leake Brothers Company, Inc. This business was established in 1898 by Frank E. and Charles R. Leake, the former now deceased. He was identified with the business until 1910, when he sold out to his brother Charles and went to California, where his death occurred in 1912. His widow is still a resident of that state. Charles R. Leake has since sold a part of his interest in the business to George F. Prescott and B. S. Schildberg and the former is now secretary and treasurer of the company. His experience in the drug business has well fitted

him for the responsibilities which now devolve upon him, making him one of the enterprising and successful merchants of the city.

In 1904 Mr. Prescott was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle J. Bryan, of Dixon, a daughter of Milton Bryan, of Bureau county, Illinois, and unto them have been born three children. The parents are members of the Christian church and shape their lives according to its teachings. Mr. Prescott's political views are in harmony with the principles that constitute the platform of the republican party and he has filled some local offices, serving as township assessor four years, or from 1905 until 1909, and also as township supervisor from 1911 to 1913. He possesses a genial nature, his sociability finding expression in many warm friendships.

“The friends thou hast and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy heart with hoops of steel,”

has been a precept which he has ever followed in spirit and he is today thus widely and favorably known in Dixon.

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### LOUIS PITCHER.

Louis Pitcher is manager of the Dixon Home Telephone Company, whose business figures largely in the commercial affairs of Dixon. In this age of intense business activity the annihilation of time and distance is an important factor and telephone service has brought about a condition that largely furthers business interests through the direct communication of interested parties. The importance of efficient service is therefore apparent and as manager of the Dixon Home Telephone Company, Mr. Pitcher is doing an important work, carefully looking after all details and supervising the major features of the business so that the best results are accomplished.

One of Dixon's native sons, he was born in 1881, his parents being L. D. and Abbie (Cramer) Pitcher, who were early residents here, settling in Lee county when this city had little industrial or commercial importance. For a time the father engaged in the manufacture of wooden barley forks and secured a patent upon the fork which was of his invention. Later he en-

gaged in other lines of business and at different times was active in the public service, filling the office of alderman and also acting on the school board. Public affairs of moment received his indorsement and cooperation and his efforts in behalf of the general welfare were far-reaching and important. In 1896 he organized the Lee County Telephone Company. This was the first independent company and he carefully systematized the business, established its lines and connections and placed the business upon a profitable basis. For nine years he remained at the head of the company and then sold out in 1905 to the Dixon Home Telephone Company. His death occurred in 1910 and was deeply regretted by many friends who appreciated his worth as a business man, as a citizen and as a social acquaintance. His wife still survives and yet makes her home in Dixon. She is a consistent member of the Methodist church.

Reared in this city Louis Pitcher acquired a public school education and afterward pursued a business course in Steinman's Institute. He has spent the past eighteen years in connection with the telephone business, with which he became identified upon the organization of the Lee County Telephone Company by his father.

He is now manager of the Dixon Home Telephone Company, which in 1905, upon purchasing the business and plant of the Lee County Telephone Company, rebuilt the plant and equipped it according to the most modern methods. The company now averages a telephone to every four and six-tenths of the population, a higher average than in any other point of equal area in the world. This alone indicates the efficiency of the service and those who read between the lines recognize the capable management and enterprise of Mr. Pitcher, who thoroughly understands the business in every phase and leaves no effort undone that will promote good service for his patrons.

On the 21st of October, 1911, Mr. Pitcher was married to Mrs. Edna Joseph of Dixon. He is a man of social nature and has an extensive circle of warm friends in this city and throughout the surrounding country. In Masonry he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is a past commander of Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K. T. He is likewise connected with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He belongs to the Elks lodge and is secretary of its board of trustees. He was active and influential in securing the erection of the Elks building. In politics he is somewhat independent, perhaps might best be termed a progressive, for he does not be-



lieve in the blind following of party leaders, but rather in the intelligent expression by ballot of one's belief in principles that they deem essential to good government. He is the secretary of the young men's branch of the Dixon's Citizens' Association and is very active in support of many measures which have to do with the welfare and upbuilding of the community. His cooperation can always be counted upon to further any project for the public good and his worth as a citizen is widely known.

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### GILBERT M. FINCH.

Gilbert M. Finch, the owner of a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 10 and 15, Amboy township, devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits with excellent success. His birth occurred in Lee county on the 11th of March, 1867, his parents being Gilbert P. and Helen J. (Mead) Finch. The father, one of the early pioneers and highly esteemed citizens of this county, still survives and makes his home at Amboy. The mother, however, is deceased, having passed away on the 9th of September, 1904.

Gilbert M. Finch attended school in Amboy until sixteen years of age and subsequently assisted his father in the operation of the home farm for about six years. After having attained his majority he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, coming into possession of a farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 10 and 15, Amboy township, which he has operated to the present time with gratifying success. He has followed modern and progressive methods of agriculture and has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of the substantial, representative and respected citizens of his native county.

On the 16th of November, 1887, in Amboy, Mr. Finch was united in marriage to Miss May Belle Maine, a daughter of William L. and Harriet (Santee) Maine. The father passed away in 1907 and his remains were interred in the Prairie Repose cemetery of Amboy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Finch have been born four children, as follows: Gilbert P. and William M., who are engaged in farming in Amboy township; Helen A., at home; and Harold M., who died in infancy.

Mr. Finch is a staunch republican in politics and at present ably fills the position of highway commissioner. Fraternally he



is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has a wide circle of acquaintances in the community where his entire life has been spent and is best liked where he is best known—a fact indicative of qualities of character that are commendable, ever commanding respect and regard.

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### ERVEN JOHN YENERICH.

Erven John Yenerich, well known in financial circles of Lee county as cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ashton and active also in the public life of the community, was born in Reynolds township, this county, March 26, 1881, a son of Wallace C. and Catherina (Kersten) Yenerich. He acquired his preliminary education in the Ashton public schools and later entered Dixon College, from which he was graduated June 24, 1901. His entire active life has been devoted to the banking business. In 1905 he entered the Whitten Bank at Whitten, Iowa, as cashier, serving in that capacity until April 11, 1907. In that year the Farmers State Bank of Ashton was organized and Mr. Yenerich was appointed cashier, a responsible position which he has since creditably and ably filled. He owns a great deal of valuable property, including tracts of land in Lyman county, South Dakota, city property in Somonauk, Illinois, and valuable holdings in Ashton. In addition to his position of cashier he also holds stock in the Farmers State Bank.

Although Mr. Yenerich is a resourceful, farsighted and careful financier, understanding banking in principle and detail, his interests have not by any means been confined to his business, but have extended to many other fields, notably that of public service. A republican in his political beliefs, he has been very active in the work of his party and has held various positions of trust and responsibility. From 1905 until 1907 he was mayor of Whitten, Iowa, his administration being constructive, progressive and businesslike and he is at present a member of the board of aldermen of Ashton, Illinois, an office to which he was elected in the spring of 1913. He is a member of the United Evangelical church, of Ashton, serving as assistant Sunday school superintendent since 1910 and he has extensive and important fraternal affiliations, being a member of Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M.; Nathan



ERVEN J. YENERICH



Whitney Chapter, No. 129, R. A. M.; Dixon Commandery, K. T.; and Tebala Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., Rockford, Illinois. He is affiliated also with Ashton Lodge, No. 977, I. O. O. F., and has been its secretary since its organization January 21, 1910.

In all relations of life in which he has been found, Mr. Yenerich has proven capable and progressive and although he is still a young man, is numbered among the substantial and representative citizens of his community.

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### W. E. TREIN.

The true measure of success is determined by what one has accomplished and judged by this standard W. E. Trein is a successful man, for he started out in life without any special advantages and is today the leading jeweler of Dixon. His success from the beginning of his connection with his present business has been uniform and rapid and yet an analysis of his life work shows that he has utilized only such qualities as others may cultivate—determination, energy and perseverance. He was born in Dixon in 1873 and is a son of Jacob and Mary Trein, who came to this city and cast in their lot with its early residents. The father, who was a blacksmith by trade, had one of the early shops of the town and was later with the Van & Means carriage shop as foreman for a long period. He was thus a well known representative of industrial life in the community and his efforts gave an impetus to business activity. He has now passed away but his widow still survives and yet makes her home in Dixon.

When W. E. Trein started out on his own account he had received such education as the public schools of the city afforded. He felt it incumbent upon him, however, to earn his own living and he sought and obtained employment in the jewelry store of Dodge & Kling. Later he entered the employ of G. O. Windell and while thus connected gained a comprehensive knowledge of the business in principle and detail. The careful husbanding of his resources brought him at length sufficient capital to enable him to carry on the business alone and in 1901 he opened a jewelry store in Ashton, Illinois, which he conducted for five years, selling out there in 1906. He then returned to Dixon and purchased a half interest in the store of his former employer, G. O. Windell. Subsequently he bought out E. L. Kling and is today proprietor of

the leading jewelry store of the city, carrying a stock which would be a credit to a city of much larger size. His store is well appointed in every particular and he has a large line of goods of of both foreign and domestic manufacture. His business affairs are conducted along the strictest lines of commercial integrity and, moreover, his life is exemplary in other respects.

In 1907 Mr. Trein was united in marriage to Miss Janet Griffith, of Ashton, Illinois, and they have a pleasant home in Dixon and delight to extend to their many friends its hospitality. They hold membership in the English Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Trein is a progressive republican. He is always courteous, kindly and affable and those who know him personally have for him a warm regard. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in school and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character and this is what Mr. Trein has done. He has persevered in the pursuit of a persistent purpose and has gained a most satisfactory reward.

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#### PETER A. KELLEY, JR.

Peter A. Kelley, Jr., a prominent and successful farmer and stock-raiser of Bradford township, was born in this part of Lee county, December 28, 1872. He is a son of Peter and Katherine Kelley, the latter of whom was born in Germany and came to America at an early date. The father was a native of Ireland. The parents are now residents of Franklin Grove. To their union were born ten children, seven of whom are still living.

Peter A. Kelley, Jr., was reared upon his father's farm in Bradford township and early became familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods. For the past eight years he has been operating the old homestead and he has met with excellent success in the conduct of his affairs, having extensive and important general farming and stock-raising interests. The farm comprises one hundred and sixty acres of valuable and productive land and is kept in excellent condition, Mr. Kelley being a practical and progressive agriculturist.

Mr. Kelley married Miss Mollie Utz, who was born in Maryland, a daughter of Archie and Jennie Utz, now residents of



Ashton. Mr. Kelley is a member of the Masonic lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is one of the successful and progressive native sons of this township and he has been carried forward by the force of his ability and energy to a place among substantial farmers and useful citizens.

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### F. J. GEHANT.

F. J. Gehant, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Lee county, who now lives retired in West Brooklyn, is a native of Lee Center township, born there in 1858. He is a son of Laurent and Julia (Toullian) Gehant, the former of whom came from France in 1854 and settled at Lee Center, where he worked in a stone quarry. He afterward purchased a farm in Shelby county, whereon he remained for ten years, returning to Lee county in 1866, at which time he purchased a tract of land in Brooklyn township, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1897, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight. His wife survived him until 1899, passing away at the age of seventy-two. They were laid to rest in the West Brooklyn cemetery.

F. J. Gehant acquired his education in the district schools, attending until he was seventeen years of age. He then assisted his father until he was twenty-four, after which he purchased eighty acres of land in Viola township and began farming independently. This formed the nucleus of his present large holdings, for he added to it from time to time, finally acquiring five hundred and forty acres. This is divided into several farms, upon which Mr. Gehant erected substantial buildings, and it is operated by his sons, to whom he rented the property when he retired from active life. He has built a modern cement block residence in West Brooklyn and in this now makes his home.

In Scioto county, Ohio, in 1882, Mr. Gehant married Miss Victoria Henry, a daughter of Alexander and Margaret (Jungnet) Henry, residents of West Brooklyn. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have become the parents of ten children: Henry L.: Alexander, a farmer in Viola township: Annie, the wife of Julius Bernardin, a hardware merchant of West Brooklyn: August, a farmer in Viola township: Isabella: Frank: William: Walter: Mabel: and Alice.

Mr. Gehant is a member of the Roman Catholic church and is a democrat in his political beliefs. He served as school director for niteen years and as road supervisor for four and in both capacities proved a capable and reliable public servant. His life has always conformed to the highest and most upright standards and his record is a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in this community.

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### JAMES B. H. THORNTON.

James B. H. Thornton has been a resident of Lee county since 1867 and has contributed substantially to its growth and development, having been since that time closely and influentially connected with agricultural interests here. He is today the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 31, Bradford township, and by his intelligent and capable management of this property has surrounded himself with a gratifying degree of prosperity. He is, moreover, entitled to a place in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war. He was born in Oldham county, Kentucky, September 15, 1840, and is a son of Phillip C. and Adeline (Hall) Thornton, also natives of that state. They moved to Missouri in 1844 and both died there. Of their eight children five still survive.

James B. H. Thornton was reared in Missouri and he remained at home until 1861. In that year he enlisted in Company A, Eighth Kansas Volunteer Infantry, and he served for four years, four months and nineteen days in the Civil war. He was appointed captain of Company K, Twelfth Regiment of colored troops, and he served in this capacity for two years and five months. He took part in the battle of Nashville and although he was in the thick of the fight, came out unwounded. He was discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, and with a creditable military record returned to Missouri. He remained in that state until 1867 and then came to Lee county, Illinois, where he has since resided. From the beginning he gave his attention to general farming and he has since been identified with agricultural interests here. In 1875 he moved upon the farm which he now owns and its present excellent condition is a visible evidence of the care and labor which he has bestowed upon it. The farm comprises one hundred and twenty acres on section 31, Bradford township,



JAMES B. H. THORNTON



and is a valuable property in every particular, provided with a comfortable house, substantial barns and outbuildings and modern machinery.

In Lee county Mr. Thornton married Miss Delia E. Shaw, who was born in Bradford township, December 15, 1845. She is a daughter of Sherman and Melinda (De Wolf) Shaw, natives of western New York. The parents went to Michigan in 1836 and in the following year moved to Lee county, Illinois, where in 1839 the father entered from the government the farm now owned by the subject of this review. He made his home upon this property until 1855, when they moved to Lee Center, where they both passed away. Of the eight children born to their union Mrs. Thornton is the only one now living. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton have become the parents of six children: Adeline D., the wife of Edwin E. Pomeroy, of Bradford township; Manley P., an attorney at Worthington, Minnesota; Harry F., a resident of Lee county; Alice L. and Edward S., at home, and Florence Alberta, the wife of Erwin Felhauer, of Whiteside county, Illinois. The family attend the Congregational church.

Mr. Thornton is connected fraternally with Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, F. & A. M., in which he has been senior warden for two terms. His daughter Alice is a member of the Eastern Star at Franklin Grove and Rebekah Lodge, No. 759, of Lee Center. Mr. Thornton was one of the early settlers in Lee county and he has witnessed a great deal of its development, his own well directed activities being a contributing factor in progress. He has won a degree of success which places him among the men of ability and worth in his community.

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### R. K. ORTT.

R. K. Ortt, inventor and manufacturer, stands today in the front rank among Dixon's business men, especially in the field of industrial activity. He organized the Clipper Lawn Mower Company for the purpose of manufacturing and selling the Clipper lawn mower which he invented and the Clipper marine and stationary gasoline engines. The business has rapidly developed since its inception and Mr. Ortt has in this connection become widely known. He was born in Niagara, New York, in 1855 and is a son of Elias and Arethusa (Peterson) Ortt.



The father was an invalid following his service in the Civil war and the mother died when her son, R. K. Ortt, was but nine years old. He then started out in the world on his own account. His advantages and opportunities were limited, but when he found it possible he attended school, early recognizing the value of an education. All through his youth his time was largely occupied with farm work and indeed he was busy in the fields until he attained his majority.

R. K. Ortt early displayed mechanical ingenuity and as he worked he gave much thought to the farm machinery then in use, believing that it might be greatly improved. He took up active tasks along that line in the improvement of binders and for four years he was superintendent of the assembling and testing department of the Hibbard Gleaner & Binder Company. He was likewise their general agent at Norristown, Pennsylvania. On leaving that firm he became connected with Hebner & Sons of Landsvale, Pennsylvania, developing a cutter and crusher for corn ensilage. His inventive ingenuity at length developed this machine, after which he established a shop in Norristown, for carrying on his experiments. He has taken out fourteen different patents, many of which are of a most valuable character and are now in general use. He had only forty-five dollars when he obtained his patent on his lawn mower which he called the Clipper mower. He began manufacturing, but developed the business slowly, his sale for the first year amounting to but twelve; the second year he put upon the market sixty-two mowers; the third year two hundred and seventy-one; the fourth year six hundred and eighty-two and the fifth year one thousand. Thus gradually the business grew and developed along healthful, substantial lines until there is no longer a struggle to maintain a place in the business world. On the contrary his industry is an extensive and a profitable one.

Mr. Ortt came to Dixon in 1904 and the following year organized the Clipper Lawn Mower Company, which was formed in July, 1905. For a year he leased the factory and in 1906 erected his present plant. The factory today has eighteen thousand square feet of floor space, in addition to which there is a warehouse of four thousand square feet. He employs from ten to twenty-five people, according to the season and in connection with the manufacture of the lawn mower he is engaged in building the Clipper marine and stationary gasoline engines. The mowers are today sold all over the world, the various points of the machine

being improvements on anything hitherto known. The Clipper mower does not roll down the grass preparatory to cutting it; on the contrary the finger bars and fingers of the mower, as it progresses, gather in the grass with a degree of uniformity in nearly an upright position, and the knives cut it most evenly. High testimonials of the superior efficiency of this mower to others upon the market have been received by Mr. Ortt from all parts of the country, east and west, north and south. The factory is today equipped with the latest improved machinery for the manufacture of both the mower and engine. Mr. Ortt claims, and his claim is substantiated in results, that the Clipper engine has more power than any engine made and sold for the same horse power. The best material and the most efficient workmanship is used in the construction of engines and mowers and the durability of both is one of the recommendations for its ready sale. Mr. Ortt now owns a strip of ground two blocks long, one hundred feet deep at one end and sixty-eight feet wide at the other end, together with four other building lots, providing space for factory enlargement. Already his output is four thousand machines a year and the demand is constantly growing.

In 1882 Mr. Ortt was united in marriage to Miss Jennie McGrevey, who died in 1888 and four years later he was married again, Miss Rachel P. Flint of Norristown, Pennsylvania, becoming his wife in 1892. There were two sons of the first marriage and one of the second marriage. Mr. Ortt votes with the republican party and finds pleasurable recreation through his membership in the Elks lodge. He has wisely used the talents with which nature has endowed him and through the exercise of effort his ability has increased and he is today one of the leading representatives of industrial activity in Dixon, widely and favorably known as inventor and manufacturer.

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## H. O. SHOEMAKER.

H. O. Shoemaker, an enterprising and prosperous young agriculturist of Amboy township, operating a farm of seventy-five acres on section 6, is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Lee county. His birth occurred in this county in 1882, his parents being Jacob and Cora E. Shoemaker. The father, long a prominent and respected citizen of Lee county,

passed away in 1896 and lies buried in the Temperance Hill cemetery of China township. The mother, who was born in Marion township, this county, in 1857, and who now makes her home with our subject, is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community in which she has spent her entire life.

II. O. Shoemaker attended school in his native township until fifteen years of age and subsequently assisted his widowed mother in the operation of the home farm in Amboy township, which he at present operates. General agricultural pursuits have claimed his attention throughout his entire business career, and in addition to the raising of cereals he also keeps about eight horses, eighteen head of cattle and forty-five hogs. The residence on the place was erected by his father and is still in excellent condition. In the conduct of his farming interests Mr. Shoemaker has won a measure of success that entitles him to recognition among the representative and enterprising citizens of his native county.

In his political views Mr. Shoemaker is a progressive and a staunch supporter of Theodore Roosevelt. He attends the Evangelical church, while fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Dixon Camp, No. 56. In the community which has always been his home he is popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### W. J. McALPINE.

No history of Dixon would be complete if it failed to make prominent mention of W. J. McAlpine, who as a contractor and builder has taken prominent part in the progress and improvement of his adopted city. He has resided in Lee county since 1888 and many of its finest structures stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise. Born in Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1852, Mr. McAlpine is a son of Lemuel and Mary (Price) McAlpine, who came to Illinois in 1853, settling in DeKalb county. The father was a farmer, depending upon the tilling of the soil for support for his family. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

W. J. McAlpine was only about a year old when the family arrived in this state and his early education was acquired in DeKalb county where he afterward learned the carpenter's trade, gradually becoming an expert workman along that line. After

some time spent in the employ of others he began contracting and building on his own account and in 1888 removed to Lee county, from which point he has since directed his operations. Gradually he has worked his way upward until he is today one of the most prominent and successful contractors of this part of the state, doing all kinds of building. He erected the Lee county courthouse in 1901, the state normal school of DeKalb in 1892 and the Dixon National Bank building in 1913. He has built courthouses at various points in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and other states and the importance of the contracts awarded him is evidence of his superior skill and ability. Thoroughly acquainted with every phase of practical building, he also understands as well, the great scientific principles which underlie his work and in its execution displays the taste which has ranked architecture among the fine arts.

Mr. McAlpine is a republican in his political views and keeps thoroughly well informed concerning the vital questions and issues of the day. While the extent and importance of his business affairs have brought him wide acquaintance, he is almost equally well known through his Masonic connections. He belongs to the lodge, chapter, commandery and to the Mystic Shrine and is most loyal to the teachings of the craft, exemplifying in his life many of its beneficent principles and purposes. This, however, he regards as but a side issue, concentrating the major portion of his time and attention upon building operations in which he has displayed such efficiency that the consensus of public opinion ranks him with the foremost contractors of northern Illinois.

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### HENRY SCHNELL.

Among the men of Lee county who have by their own energy, enterprise and rightly directed ambition established themselves in positions of prominence in agricultural circles of the community is numbered Henry Schnell, who during the many years of his residence here has worked his way upward from poverty to prosperity, his success being indicated in his ownership of one of the finest farms in this locality. Mr. Schnell was born in Germany, April 16, 1866, and is a son of John A. and Margaret Schnell, also natives of that country, where both passed away.



Henry Schnell remained in Germany until he was seventeen years of age and then came to America, settling almost immediately in Franklin Grove, Lee county, Illinois. He was at that time fifty three dollars in debt, but he soon discharged this obligation out of his wages as a monthly laborer. He continued as a farm hand for seven years and then rented a place in Reynolds township, operating this for eleven years. Following this he purchased land on section 20, Ashton township, and upon this property has since resided. The farm comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is well improved in every particular, being provided with substantial barns and outbuildings and all the accessories of a model agricultural property. In addition to general farming Mr. Schnell makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and he has built up a large business along this line.

On the 7th of December, 1891, Mr. Schnell was united in marriage to Miss Mollie Griesse, who was born in Reynolds township, this county, a daughter of J. A. and Catharine Griesse, natives of Germany. They came to America at an early date and settled in Lee county, where the mother died and where the father still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Schnell have become the parents of a daughter, Dora, who was born April 14, 1893. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and are well known as people of exemplary character. The success which Mr. Schnell today enjoys has been acquired through his own efforts and it places him among the men of prominence and worth in his locality.

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#### BENTON P. DRUMMOND.

Among those who have made a success of agriculture in Lee county is Benton P. Drummond, who was born in Ogle county, Illinois, November 11, 1852, and is a son of Andrew J. and Electa (Martin) Drummond, the father a native of Pennsylvania, born October 20, 1821, and his wife a Canadian. Andrew J. Drummond came to Illinois when but seventeen years of age, in 1838, and located in Ogle county, taking up a claim. He lived on this land until retiring from active farm labor and now makes his home with his son, Benton P. To the parents' union six children were born, of whom four are living. The father is a democrat and has held various public offices of local nature. His wife passed away many years ago, her death occurring about 1858.





BENTON P. DRUMMOND, RESIDENCE



Benton P. Drummond was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the public schools in the neighborhood. He remained at home until of age, acquiring under his father a fair knowledge as to the best methods to be pursued in achieving success along agricultural lines. After leaving home he rented land for a number of years and subsequently bought a farm in Ogle county, which he cultivated until he made removal to Lee county, buying the forty acres upon which he now lives. He also owns a small piece of farm land in Ogle county. Mr. Drummond is entirely successful and is numbered among the progressive farmers of his section. He specializes in feeding cattle for the market and has also made a success of raising asparagus. His farm is in excellent condition and in its productiveness reflects the care and good management of its owner.

In 1875 Mr. Drummond married Miss Henrietta M. Tilton, who was born in Ogle county, February 12, 1854, and is a daughter of James and Susan (Hardesty) Tilton, natives of Ohio. They came to Illinois during the pioneer period and both passed away in this state. Mrs. Drummond was one of a large family of children born to her parents. She became the mother of four children: Nora M., born February 26, 1877, who is the wife of E. Shippy, of Ashton; Clarence E., born July 9, 1878; Birdella, born August 13, 1880, who is the wife of Carl Alberston, of Rochelle, Illinois; and Lucy E., who was born November 14, 1895, and married Ray Olig, of Lee county.

Mr. Drummond is a democrat in his political belief and has always strictly upheld party principles. In 1895 he was appointed postmaster at Ashton under the Cleveland administration and filled this position to the great satisfaction of the general public. He is widely and favorably known in Ashton township and, while he has attained individual success, has been a factor in the general progress and advancement that has made Lee county one of the foremost farm sections of this state.

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### W. C. JONES.

W. C. Jones, who was the first telegraph messenger in Dixon, is now proprietor of a large general mercantile house and has won a measure of success that indicates how active he has been in the pursuit of his purposes. Dixon is proud of his record as

that of one of her native sons, his birth having here occurred in 1859. His parents were William and Agnes Jones, who arrived in Dixon in the '40s when the town was little more than a village and gave but slight promise of becoming the enterprising center of trade which it is today. Here the father engaged in the transfer business until the time of his death and the mother is still living at the age of eighty-four years. They had a family of four sons and four daughters, who reached adult age.

W. C. Jones was a public school pupil in Dixon and in early life started out to earn his living, becoming, as previously stated, the first telegraph messenger boy in the town. Some of his fellow townsmen today remember him in that service and have watched with interest his advancement along business lines. He learned telegraphy and was afterward appointed operator at Dimmick, Illinois, when but nineteen years of age. He did not hold the position, however, but jumping on the train as it started away, went to other fields, having changed his mind concerning telegraphy as a life work. He next obtained a position as clerk in the store of Stephens & Pankhurst, where he remained for a short time and subsequently he entered the draying business, which he followed for nine years, having the first double truck in Dixon. In 1887 he established a small grocery store upon a capital of four hundred dollars and in 1895 he erected a new building forty by ninety feet and two stories in height to accommodate his stock. As time passed on he extended the scope of his business and is proprietor of a large general store which is one of the leading mercantile establishments of the city. He has carefully watched all the details, noted the indications pointing to success and has followed the methods seeming to promise bright results. Studying the trade, maintaining honorable business methods and reasonable prices, his success has grown year by year and he is now one of the substantial merchants of the city. At one time he was also secretary of the Fletcher Manufacturing Company, from which he resigned. He was the first man authorized as postmaster of a subpostal station to handle the parcel post.

On the 31st of October, 1883, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Woolley, a daughter of W. C. Woolley, who was station agent at Dixon for the Illinois Central Railroad for thirty-seven years. He also helped build the road into the town and was one of the pioneer settlers here. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been born two sons and two daughters.



In his fraternal relations Mr. Jones is an Elk, while politically he is a republican. For six years he served as township supervisor and for a similar period was a member of the board of education, proving capable and loyal in both offices. His record as a business man and citizen is creditable and proves what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do. While a telegraph messenger Mr. Jones delivered telegrams to Father Dixon, founder of the city. It is a far reach from service as telegraph messenger to the proprietorship of one of the leading mercantile establishments but determined purpose, unfaltering energy and straightforward methods have brought Mr. Jones to the position which he occupies and his record proves that prosperity and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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### J. A. FORREST.

J. A. Forrest is president of the Dixon Cereal & Feed Company and thus active in the development and management of one of the most important productive industries of the city. He is a young man, but has already attained a creditable and enviable place in commercial circles. A native of Chicago, he was born in 1879, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Sutherland) Forrest, both of whom were natives of Scotland. In early life they crossed the Atlantic to the new world, becoming residents of Chicago in 1869. The father was there actively engaged in the oat-meal business for a number of years, but is now living retired and makes his home in Dixon.

In his youthful days J. A. Forrest devoted his time largely to the mastery of those branches of learning which constitute the curriculum of the public schools of Chicago. He was a young man of about twenty-three years when in 1902 he came to Dixon and organized the Dixon Cereal Company for the manufacture of corn products, including corn meal and brewers' grits, the output being sold largely in South America. From the beginning the undertaking prospered owing to the capable management and progressive business methods of the founder and, extending his efforts into other fields, he also organized the Forrest-Utley Company, which operated eight years as a wholesale feed business. In 1913 the two companies went out of business and the Dixon Cereal & Feed Company was organized and purchased the



plant of the Dixon Cereal Company, at which time the capacity was increased to two thousand bushels of corn per day. The product goes to South America, Cuba and the West Indies, and the business from its organization has been a profitable one, founded as it was, upon the broad experience and enterprising methods of Mr. Forrest. He is president of the company with H. T. Noble as secretary and treasurer. They occupy a building one hundred and twenty by seventy-five feet and employment is furnished to fifteen men. A wholesale feed business is conducted in connection and the enterprise has become one of the foremost productive industries of Dixon.

In 1903 Mr. Forrest married Miss Alice Josephine Langdon of Dixon and they have become the parents of three children. Mr. Forrest is an Elk and in politics is independent. He thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. His success in business from the beginning of his residence in Dixon has been uniform and rapid and his life record indicates what may be accomplished when energy and determination lead the way.

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### HARRY A. ROE.

Harry A. Roe, of H. A. Roe Company, Lee county abstracters, suite 1 and 2, Dixon National Bank building, Dixon, Illinois, is engaged in conducting a farm loan district agency and abstract of title business, which line he has conducted since 1904, meeting with growing success. He was born in Bloomington, Illinois, April 8, 1874, a son of Dr. Nathaniel C. and Florence R. Roe—the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Pennsylvania. In early life they came to Illinois with their respective parents and were pioneer settlers of Franklin Grove, Lee county. The father prepared for the medical profession and engaged in practice and medical manufacturing in this county for many years, where he followed his profession until his life's labors were ended, his wife preceding him in death. They were counted worthy and valued residents of the community, their many good qualities of heart and mind endearing them to those with whom they came in contact.

After attending the public and high schools of this county. Harry A. Roe continued his education in the Spencerian Uni-

versity of Cleveland, Ohio, in which he was a student for four years. He afterwards spent four years in Chicago, serving in the capacity of bookkeeper, and in December, 1896, he came to Dixon to accept the appointment of deputy circuit clerk and recorder, serving, respectively, under Arvine S. Hyde, Ira W. Lewis and William B. McMahan, until 1904. He then established his present business, handling large farm loans and compiling abstracts of title. He has secured a good clientele in this connection throughout northern Illinois and his business is one of growing importance. Mr. Roe is largely interested in the financial affairs of Lee county, owning extensive holdings in the large banks of the county.

On June 8, 1897, Mr. Roe was united in marriage with Miss Mae L. Hyde, a daughter of Jonathan N. Hyde, one of the pioneers of this county. They have three children—Winifred M. Roe, John C. Roe and Franklin H. Roe. The family are members of and affiliated with the Presbyterian church and Mr. Roe holds membership with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He votes with the republican party, of which he has always been a stalwart advocate and his public service has gained him the warm regard of all who know him and in business life his position is equally creditable and the substantial advancement which he makes year by year is the direct outcome of thorough preparation, close application and alert business methods.

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### W. C. ZOELLER.

W. C. Zoeller, proprietor of the Phoenix Hotel in Franklin Grove, is a native of Lee county, born June 20, 1893. He is a son of Louis and Ernestina (Kohl) Zoeller, the former a native of Chicago and the latter of Germany. Their marriage occurred in Lee county, Illinois, and to their union were born ten children, Ella, W. C., Bertha, Wilbur, Helena, George, Edward, Otto, Ruth and Harold.

W. C. Zoeller has had long experience in his chosen line of work, for he has been connected with hotels in various parts of the country, serving for some time as chef in the Hotel Sherman in Chicago and in the same capacity on the dining cars of several railroads. He is now operating the Phoenix Hotel and Restaurant

in Franklin Grove and has founded a gratifying degree of success upon practical experience and thorough knowledge. He has made the Phoenix a modern and comfortable hostelry, well managed in all of its details. He gives practically all of his time and attention to its affairs and is regarded as one of the most successful and progressive business men of the community.

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### CLYDE SMITH.

Clyde Smith, a member of the law firm of Trusdell, Smith & Leech of Dixon, is recognized as a man of broad legal learning and the analytical trend of his mind, together with the readiness with which he grasps the points in an argument are salient features in his success as a practitioner in the courts of the district. He was born in Paw Paw, this county, and is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Illinois, a family who arrived here in 1837. The Smiths came to America from Scotland by sailing craft. They reached Chicago after a long and tedious journey and made their way at once to Lee county where they settled at what is known as Smith's Grove. One of the brothers, David S., is still living there at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. Another brother, Robert Smith, the father of Clyde Smith, followed the occupation of farming throughout the period of his residence in this county. He married Harriet Baisley and they here reared their family. For more than three quarters of a century the family has been represented here and have borne an active and helpful part in the work of general progress and improvement, contributing in substantial measure to the county's development and prosperity.

Clyde Smith acquired his education in the public schools and afterward attended the University of Michigan, in which he pursued a classical course, winning the Bachelor of Arts degree upon graduation in 1886. Having determined upon the practice of law as a life work, and preparing for the profession at Ottawa, he then located at Paw Paw, where he continued in practice until 1890. He then came to Dixon and about 1900 entered into partnership with A. K. Trusdell, the relation being still maintained. Mr. Smith engages in the general practice of law and while advancement at the bar is proverbially slow, nevertheless it was not long before he became recognized as a capable lawyer. Well versed in



CLYDE SMITH





the learning of his profession with a deep knowledge of human nature and the springs of human conduct, with great shrewdness and sagacity and extraordinary tact, he is in the courts an advocate of great power and influence.

Mr. Smith, in his fraternal relations, is an Elk, while his political allegiance is given to the progressive party. He is at all times a deep thinker and clear reasoner, not only in connection with his profession, but upon all matters of vital interest effecting the welfare of city, state and nation.

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### MRS. ELLEN E. BURNS.

Mrs. Ellen E. Burns, now residing on Jones street in Amboy and owning a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 24, May township, is the widow of James Burns, who passed away on the 10th of December, 1911. Her birth occurred in Amboy, Lee county, on the 20th of January, 1856, her parents being John A. and Ellen (Monahan) Carroll, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in the Catholic cemetery at Amboy. The father's demise occurred on the 25th of July, 1912, while the mother was called to her final rest on the 24th of June, 1902. Their passing was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for they had gained many friends in the community during the long period of their residence here.

Ellen E. Carroll attended school in Amboy until fifteen years of age and remained under the parental roof during the following fifteen years, assisting in the work of the household and other duties. On the 20th of October, 1886, she gave her hand in marriage to James Burns, who was born in Sublette township, this county, on the 24th of October, 1847, a son of Edward and Bridget (Caffery) Burns. His parents took up their abode among the early pioneer settlers of Lee county in 1844 and here spent the remainder of their lives, Edward Burns passing away on the 14th of September, 1888, and his wife on the 26th of January, 1890. Their remains were interred in the Sandy Hill cemetery of May township. James Burns devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career with excellent success and at the time of his demise owned a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 24, May township, which is now in possession of his widow. He died on

the 10th of December, 1911, and was buried at Amboy. His entire life, covering a period of sixty-four years, had been spent within the borders of Lee county and he was widely recognized as one of its representative agriculturists and esteemed citizens.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Burns were born seven children, as follows: Nellie, who was graduated from the Amboy high school with the class of 1908 and now follows the profession of teaching at Amboy; Edward, a traveling salesman residing at Oshkosh, Wisconsin; John T., who is a clerk in the employ of the Colson Clothing Company of Amboy; Alice G., a milliner of Chicago; Margaret F., who is employed as a bookkeeper in Amboy; Elizabeth and Mary R., both of whom are high-school students in Amboy. Mrs. Burns, who makes her home on Jones street in Amboy, has always lived in Lee county and here has a circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of her acquaintances.

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### CONRAD MEISTER.

Conrad Meister is one of the early settlers in Lee county, his residence here dating from 1846. During his entire active life he was closely and influentially associated with agricultural interests of this locality, winning a comfortable fortune which now enables him to spend his declining years in rest and retirement. He was born in Germany, December 7, 1835, and is a son of John and Anna K. Meister, also natives of the fatherland. They came to America in 1846, locating in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away. To their union were born five children, of whom the subject of this review is the only one now living.

Conrad Meister was eleven years of age when he came with his parents to Lee county and he grew up amid pioneer conditions, learning farming through practical experience in the development of his father's homestead. When he grew to manhood he became a landholder and for a number of years owned a fine property of three hundred and twenty acres in Bradford township. He carried forward the work of improving and developing this place along progressive and modern lines and made it a valuable property provided with substantial barns and outbuildings and modern equipment. He owned in addition three hundred and twenty acres of land in South Dakota but he has now divided all of his

holdings among his children and is living in retirement at the home of his youngest son.

In China township, this county, Mr. Meister married Miss Rosanna Hilly, who was born in Germany and who came to America in 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Meister became the parents of eight children: Katherine, the wife of J. Clutz; Mary, who married Andrew Reinhart; George, who married Rachel Capes and who lives in this township; John, deceased; Emma, the wife of William Thomas; Levi, of South Dakota; Anna, the wife of John Reitz, and Fred. Mrs. Meister passed away in 1907 and was laid to rest in Ashton cemetery. Mr. Meister has lived in Lee county for a period of sixty-seven years and he has therefore seen a great deal of the development and progress of this part of Illinois. He has borne an active and honorable part in the work of advancement and his retirement is well deserved, rewarding many years of earnest and faithful labor.

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#### IRA W. LEWIS.

Ira W. Lewis, who is serving as deputy circuit clerk, his connection with that position covering many years, while almost his entire life has been devoted to public office, was born in Broome county, New York, April 3, 1842, a son of Hiel and Eveline Lewis, who came to Lee county in the year of their son's birth. The father, a farmer by occupation, turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and was continuously engaged in the tilling of the soil until he passed away in 1880. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was accounted one of the worthy and representative citizens of the community. The mother has also departed this life. In their family were six children, four of whom are now deceased. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to a remote period. The grandfather was a son of Nathaniel Lewis, junior, who was born in Vermont, but spent the greater part of his life in Pennsylvania. He was a descendant of George Lewis, who came from England in 1650 and settled in the Green Mountain state.

Ira W. Lewis had a public-school education and was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the best methods of planting, plowing and harvesting. He remained upon the farm until 1863, and since that time has given almost his undivided

attention to the duties of public office. He spent four years in the position of deputy sheriff and in 1868 was made deputy circuit clerk, which office he filled for twelve years. He was then elected circuit clerk and remained the incumbent for twenty years. He is now again deputy circuit clerk and thus his connection with the position has covered about forty-five years. There is no one in Lee county so familiar with the office and all that appertains thereto. He has ever been prompt and systematic in the discharge of his duties and a well trained mind keeps him in touch with the work of the office so that he can refer to any point or fact needed at a moment's notice.

On the 21st of March, 1867, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Marilla M. Williams, a daughter of Cyrus Williams, who came to this city in 1839. He was a millwright by trade and as one of the pioneers became closely connected with industrial interests here at a very early day.

Mr. Lewis holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and his political support has always been given to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Over his public record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. Abraham Lincoln once said: "You may fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." This statement finds verification nowhere as much as it does in public office. An incompetent man may be called to public office, but his inefficiency is soon demonstrated and when a man has again and again been chosen for a position of public trust it is evident that he is worthy of the place to which he is called. While Mr. Lewis has now passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten, he is still active in public office and his entire record is one which has gained for him well merited commendation and indorsement.

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#### WILLIAM S. FROST, JR.

William S. Frost, Jr., is a native of Bradford township, a representative of a prominent pioneer family of this locality and one of the most progressive and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Lee county. For a number of years he has been closely and influentially associated with agricultural interests here and his





WILLIAM S. FROST, JR.





success places him in the front rank of men of marked ability and substantial worth in the community. He was born September 22, 1872, and is a son of Captain William S. and Sophia E. (Shaw) Frost, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Niles, Michigan. The father came to Illinois in 1837, one of the early settlers in the state. He purchased land in Lee county, where he was connected with agricultural interests for many years. In 1871 he moved to Bradford township and there he has since resided, now living retired. He and his wife became the parents of six children: Frank E.; Malinda S., the wife of A. Aschenbrenner; S. D., a resident of South Dakota; William S., of this review; Mary Adelia, the wife of M. R. Warnick, of South Dakota; and a child who died in infancy.

William S. Frost, Jr., spent his childhood and youth upon the family homestead in Lee county and acquired a public-school and a college education. When he was twenty-six he rented a farm and he operated this for two years, following which he bought the property which he now owns. This is known as the Rising Sun Farm and comprises two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land on section 32, Bradford township. The fields are under a high state of cultivation, the buildings are substantial and in good repair and the machinery is of the modern, labor-saving type. Nothing about the place is ever neglected and the property is in every respect a credit to the owner, who is an intelligent and progressive agriculturist. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and his interests along this line are extensive and important. In addition to his home farm he owns also a three hundred and twenty acre tract in South Dakota.

On the 12th of October, 1898, Mr. Frost was united in marriage to Miss Genevieve Bodine, who was born in Lee Center, November 9, 1874, a daughter of A. Z. and Katherine Bodine, in whose family were three children: Mary A., the wife of Fred Starks of Los Angeles, California; Leslie A., a resident of Huttig, Arkansas, and Genevieve, the wife of the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Frost have three children: Harold W., born May 27, 1902; Lyle B., born July 13, 1908, and Katherine Berenice, born August 27, 1911. Mrs. Frost is a lady of excellent education and was a teacher in a business college in Dixon previous to her marriage. She was also a stenographer and correspondent for several years in Chicago prior to her marriage. She is noble grand Abigail of Rebekah Lodge, No. 759, of Lee Center, belongs to the Woman's Club of Amboy and to Arbutus

Chapter, O. E. S., Amboy, Illinois. Her many excellent qualities of mind and character have made her widely and favorably known and she is very popular in social circles.

Mr. Frost is connected fraternally with Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, A. F. & A. M.; with Haskell Lodge, No. 1004, I. O. O. F.; with the Modern Woodmen of America of Lee Center and with the Order of the Eastern Star. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served for several years as school trustee. He is vice president of the Northern Illinois Electric Railroad Company, which was organized about 1911 and which has completed twelve miles of rail between Amboy, Lee Center and Rochelle. Mr. Frost's ability is known and recognized in business circles and he is regarded as one of the most deservedly successful farmers and business men of Lee county.

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#### J. C. MILLER.

Ambition, energy and enterprise, guided and controlled by sound and practical business judgment, have marked the basis of the success of J. C. Miller, who is one of the largest landowners in Wyoming township and one of the most progressive and successful farmers and stock-raisers in Lee county. He was born in Brooklyn township, October 10, 1865, a son of Conrad and Catherine (Sinner) Miller, natives of Germany. The parents came from that country in 1858 and settled first at Perkins Grove, in Lee county. The father was at that time without capital and in a strange country, but with characteristic courage and determination he began farming on rented land and after eight years had accumulated enough money to purchase an eighty acre tract in Brooklyn township. This he bought for twenty-five dollars per acre and he labored at its cultivation until his death, which occurred June 9, 1867. He is buried in the Perkins Grove cemetery and his wife survives him. She makes her home in North Dixon and is now seventy-two years of age.

J. C. Miller acquired his education in the district schools of Brooklyn township and in Naperville College. He began his independent career by renting property and when he had saved enough money bought one hundred acres of land in Wyoming township. By judicious purchase he has since increased this to about six hundred acres and this he has divided into three farms,

each equipped with excellent buildings and provided with modern machinery. Mr. Miller raises stock on an extensive scale, dealing largely in cattle and horses. He has a comfortable residence in Paw Paw but gives his personal supervision to the conduct of his farm. He is a director and stockholder in the Compton National Bank and well known in financial circles as a man of ability and enterprise.

In Brooklyn township, on the 27th of September, 1891, Mr. Miller married Miss Nettie Miller, a daughter of S. B. and Sarah Miller, pioneers in Lee county. The father makes his home in Paw Paw, having survived his wife since 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have become the parents of six children: Lelah and Samuel A., graduates of the Paw Paw high school; Lora, Grace and Hazel, also attending school; and Bina M., aged five.

Mr. Miller is a republican in his political beliefs and is now a member of the board of aldermen of Paw Paw. Through his energy and ability in promoting his personal interests he has contributed in substantial measure to the welfare and growth of the community which numbers him among its most respected and representative citizens.

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### WILLIAM G. KRUG.

During the entire period of his active life William G. Krug has been associated with agricultural interests of Bradford, his native township, and he now owns an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, a visible evidence of his industry and enterprise in the management of his affairs. He was born June 4, 1874, and is a son of John and Catherine (Hilliard) Krug, natives of Germany, who came to America at an early date, settling in Lee county, Illinois. The father died here April 10, 1883, and is survived by his wife, who makes her home in Ashton. To their union were born four children: Mary, who married John J. Wagner; Catherine, the wife of W. A. Kersten; William G., of this review; and John M., of Ashton.

William G. Krug was reared at home and remained with his mother until he was twenty-one years of age. He then rented a farm and operated it for about two years, after which he purchased land on section 22, Bradford township. He owns one hundred and sixty acres and has improved this with substantial barns

and outbuildings and has brought the fields to a high state of cultivation.

In 1897, Mr. Krug was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Kersten, a native of Bradford township and a daughter of John and Christina Kersten, both of whom were born in Germany and both of whom died in Ashton township in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Krug have four children, Roy J., Oliver J., Pearl C. and Alvin W. The parents are members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Krug is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now serving in a capable and efficient way as school director. As a citizen he is public-spirited and whatever tends to promote the best interests of the community receives his indorsement and hearty support.

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#### R. W. CHURCH.

In a history of the wide-awake, progressive business men of Dixon mention should be made of R. W. Church, now superintendent for the Borden Condensed Milk Company. He is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the business under his control, seems to have every detail in mind and at the same time gives due prominence to the more important features of the business having to do with its substantial and growing success. Born in New York in 1869, his educational opportunities were only those accorded by the public schools. He has been connected with the milk business for the past twenty-four years, having been associated with the Borden Condensed Milk Company in New York, Wisconsin and in Illinois. Long experience has thoroughly acquainted him with every phase of the business, which he has carefully studied, and thus step by step he has worked his way upward, his efficiency and reliability being recognized by those under whom he has served. He came to Dixon July 13, 1911, to accept the superintendency of the Borden Condensed Milk Company at this place. The business was here established on the 1st of July, 1902, the company buying out the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, which had been established July 8, 1889, although the buildings were started in 1887. The Borden Company purchased the plant and equipment of the old company and today the plant has a capacity of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds



of milk daily. This is purchased from local farmers, three hundred dairymen delivering milk to the plant, while fifty-eight hundred cows are kept to supply the product. The company has ninety acres of ground and the three buildings are each three hundred and sixty-five by eighty feet and two stories in height. An electric plant furnishes power for the works and two hundred and twenty-five people are employed at the plant in the manufacture of condensed and evaporated milk. They also make a large amount of candy, mostly caramels, as a by-product. They make their own gas for mechanical manufacturing and the water is supplied from artesian wells upon the place. Everything is most sanitary and the plant and equipment are the largest in size in the world. It may well be understood therefore that the men at the head of the enterprise are most capable and energetic business men, thoroughly conversant with every phase of the work, and onerous are the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon Mr. Church as superintendent of the Dixon interests.

In 1893 Mr. Church was united in marriage to Miss Sue I. Lewis, a native of Dundee, Illinois, and they have become the parents of three children, Kenneth L., Donald and Harriet, all attending school. Mr. Church holds membership with the Masonic fraternity and he gives his political indorsement to the republican party, of which he has always been a stanch advocate. He is always ready to support any plan or project that is a matter of civic virtue or civic pride but he has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, and gradually he has advanced to a position of prominence, making a record which is most creditable. There is no phase of the business with which he is connected that is not familiar to him and his long experience has enabled him to speak with authority upon any matter relative to the production, care and use of milk. He is indeed alert, wide-awake and progressive and ranks with the foremost business men of Dixon.

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### JOHN J. WAGNER.

John J. Wagner, a progressive farmer and stock-raiser and a native son of Bradford township, was born February 15, 1867. He remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age and then married, afterward engaging in farming upon rented land.

At the end of two years he purchased the property which he now owns. He has one hundred and sixty-eight acres on section 3, Bradford township, and he has improved this with substantial buildings and modern machinery, making the place productive and valuable to a high degree. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and he has important interests of this character.

Mr. Wagner married Miss Mary Krug, a daughter of John Krug and a native of Bradford township. They have become the parents of a daughter, Alta L., who was born November 22, 1899, and who is now a student in the Ashton high school. Mr. Wagner is a republican in his political beliefs and has held various positions of public trust and responsibility, serving for two years as collector. He is now in the twelfth year of his able service as county supervisor and is at the present time chairman of the board. A resident of Bradford township during his entire life, he has become widely and favorably known here and his influence has been a tangible force for good in the community.

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### MARK CLANCY KELLER.

Mark Clancy Keller, city attorney of Dixon since 1909 and recognized as one of the ablest members of the bar of Lee county, was born in May township, in February, 1873, and spent his boyhood and youth upon the home farm, his time being divided between the work of the fields, the duties of the schoolroom and the pleasures of the playground. Like many other young men, however, he did not care to follow agricultural pursuits as a life work and with a view to entering upon a professional career, continued his education in college. He was graduated with high honors from the Chicago Business College and afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in the common schools and colleges of Lee and Bureau counties for six years. He had convinced himself within that period that he preferred the practice of law and in the fall of 1897 he began preparation for the bar, completing his studies in the Northern Illinois College of Law in 1900, at which time the LL. M. degree was conferred upon him. Immediately afterward he was admitted to the bar and has since practiced in Dixon with marked success. On the 20th of April, 1909, he was elected city attorney and has since most intelligently



MARK C. KELLER



and capably performed the duties of the office, earning for himself a place in the ranks of the ablest and best lawyers of the city. Since entering the office he has reorganized the city of Dixon to conform to the commission form of government, drawing up all ordinances for the same, the city finding it unnecessary to spend a single cent for outside counsel. Moreover, along such remarkable lines have the ordinances been formed that they have been copied by other cities. Mr. Keller is an earnest and discriminating student of the principles of law and his ability has brought him to a foremost position among the leading representatives of the Dixon bar.

In 1904 Mr. Keller was united in marriage to Miss Mae Richardson, of Lee Center, and they now have two children, Mildred Amy and Mark C. Mr. Keller is a prominent member of the Masonic lodge of Dixon, of which he is a past master. He has also taken the degrees of the Royal Arch chapter and he belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Woodmen of the World and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is still a young man, earnest of purpose, thoughtful and determined, yet possessing the affable, kindly nature and unfeigned cordiality which win friends.

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### JOHN A. CHURCH.

John A. Church, a representative and successful agriculturist of Amboy township, owns and operates a farm of one hundred and nine acres on section 15. His birth occurred in Lee county on the 5th of September, 1865, his parents being John and Cyrene (Farwell) Church. The father, a native of Oxford, New York, came to this county in 1838 and here spent the remainder of his life, passing away in August, 1890. The period of his residence in this county covered more than a half century and he was widely recognized as one of its substantial farmers and esteemed citizens. Both he and his wife were laid to rest in Prairie Repose cemetery of Amboy, the latter's demise having occurred in January, 1890.

John A. Church attended school in Amboy until fourteen years of age and after putting aside his text-books assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until the latter's death. At that time he came into possession of the property, embracing one hundred and nine acres of land on section 15, Amboy township,



where he has since carried on mixed farming. The residence and other buildings were erected by our subject's father and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the supervision of a practical and progressive owner.

On the 31st of December, 1889, in Chicago, Mr. Church was united in marriage to Miss Alice L. MacCarron, her parents being W. F. and Mary L. (Corbin) MacCarron, residents of the western metropolis. Mr. and Mrs. Church have three children, namely: John C., who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; Albert L., who is a stenographer in the service of the Illinois Central Railroad, being employed in the office of the master mechanic at Freeport, Illinois; and Charles A., who also assists in the work of the home farm.

In his political views Mr. Church is a progressive, advocating the principles set forth by Theodore Roosevelt at the time of the birth of the new party. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Congregational church. Well known in the county where he has resided from birth, he has won the uniform trust and good-will of all by reason of his pleasant and attractive personality, and all his life he has been straightforward and honorable.

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#### P. W. MASON.

P. W. Mason, well known as an auctioneer of Amboy, has here maintained his offices in the First National Bank building for the past quarter of a century. He came to Lee county in 1883 and has resided within its borders throughout the intervening three decades. His birth occurred in Henry county, Illinois, on the 17th of November, 1861, his parents being N. S. and Henrietta (Green) Mason. The father, a pioneer settler of Whiteside county, this state volunteered for service in defense of the Union at the time of the Civil war. His demise occurred in 1901, when he had attained the age of sixty-seven years, and his remains were interred at Morrison, Illinois. He left a widow and five children to mourn his death, which was also deeply deplored by many friends and acquaintances. The Mason family is of British origin and was established in the United States at a very early period in the history of this country.

P. W. Mason attended the public schools of Whiteside county until a youth of nineteen and subsequently assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until he entered the law office of P. M. James, an attorney of Amboy, with whom he studied for two years. On the expiration of that period he began practicing in the justice and county courts. Since 1888 he has maintained his offices in the First National Bank building at Amboy, enjoying a gratifying clientage as an attorney and also for eighteen years devoting considerable attention to auctioneering.

In Amboy, Illinois, on the 1st of January, 1888, Mr. Mason was united in marriage to Miss Martha McLaughlin, a daughter of George and Jane (Edwards) McLaughlin, of Mendota, Illinois. The mother is deceased and lies buried at Mendota, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Mason are the parents of three children, namely: Wayne G., who is employed as clerk in the general offices of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway; and Alta and Elva, twins, who are students of the Amboy high school. Mr. Mason gives his political allegiance to the democracy, while fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs and the Star of Equity. He is most conscientious in the performance of his professional duties and in every relation of life is actuated by high and honorable principles. His genuine worth and his devotion to all that is right, just and elevating, make him a man whom to know is to respect and honor.

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#### EDWARD M. HERWIG.

Edward M. Herwig, a progressive and successful young farmer of Bradford township, manifesting unusual enterprise and ability in the conduct of his agricultural interests, was born in China township, this county, November 21, 1885. He is a son of William and Minnie (Burham) Herwig, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Lee county, Illinois. The father was brought to America when he was four years of age and has resided for many years in China township, where he still makes his home.

Edward M. Herwig was reared at home and remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred when he was twenty-four years of age. For two years thereafter he rented land and at the end of that time he bought one hundred and seven acres

on sections 16 and 21, Bradford township. Upon this property he engages in general farming and stock-raising and he has extensive interests along both lines. He owns also a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Ashton township, and he is regarded as a progressive, enterprising and representative farmer.

Mr. Herwig married Miss Rosa Kersten, a native of Bradford township and a daughter of H. M. and Mary (Gross) Kersten, also natives of Lee county. They are now residents of Ashton. Mrs. Herwig is a graduate of high school and taught for three years previous to her marriage. She and her husband are members of the United Evangelical church and Mr. Herwig gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is an energetic and progressive business man and a native son of whom Lee county has every reason to be proud.

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#### ANTON ALBRECHT.

Anton Albrecht is a native of Bradford township, Lee county, born September 15, 1866, and a son of Burket and Martha (Kersten) Albrecht, natives of Germany, who in 1859 crossed the Atlantic to America and located in this county. Both are living and make their home in Ashton.

Anton Albrecht was reared under the parental roof and remained at home until he reached his majority. He received his education in the schools of the neighborhood and under the able guidance of his father soon became an efficient agriculturist. After leaving home he rented land for some years and then bought the farm upon which he now lives and which comprises one hundred and twenty acres, the property being located on section 29, Bradford township. He not only follows general farming but makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle and hogs. He has made substantial improvements upon his property and his years of arduous labor have resulted in a gratifying financial success.

On December 31, 1890, Mr. Albrecht married Miss Katherine Heckmann, who was born in Germany, August 21, 1868, and is a daughter of Adam and Anna (Gonnermann) Heckmann, both natives of the fatherland. Mr. Heckmann died there, but the mother is living, still making her home in Germany. Mrs. Albrecht was one of five children born to her parents. She and her husband

have seven children: Gertrude Anna, born February 13, 1892; Carrie K., January 4, 1894; Amanda M., September 4, 1896; Mary Alice, April 9, 1899; Clara K., January 26, 1902; George Anton, April 22, 1904; and Lucile D., April 6, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht are members of the German Lutheran church, the services of which they regularly attend and in which organization they take a deep and resultant interest. In his political affiliations Mr. Albrecht is a democrat and, being interested in the cause of education, serves at the present time as one of the school directors of his township. A man of progressive ideas, he has contributed in no small way to the general advancement and prosperity and is highly esteemed for what he has accomplished and those qualities that have made possible his success.

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#### JUSTUS H. HENERT.

A farm of two hundred and forty acres situated on section 16, Reynolds township, pays tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by Justus H. Henert, who has there lived since his marriage. He has a wide acquaintance in this county, for he is one of its native sons as well as one of its progressive young farmers. His birth occurred July 2, 1883, in the township in which he still makes his home, his father being George Henert, of whom mention is made on another page of this work. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farm lads, his time being divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued to assist in the cultivation of the old home place until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when he was married and started out in life on his own account. It was in 1907 that he wedded Miss Emma Kersten, who was born in Ashton township, this county, January 27, 1887, and is a daughter of Hartman F. and Sophia (Newman) Kersten, who were also natives of Lee county and representatives of old pioneer families here. The father is now living in Ashton, but the mother passed away in 1899. They had a family of four children, all of whom survive.

Following his marriage Justus H. Henert began farming on the place where he now lives, having two hundred and forty acres, which is pleasantly and conveniently situated not far from Rochelle and Ashton. The land is arable, and the productiveness



of the soil makes good return for the care and labor which he bestows upon it. In connection with the raising of crops he owns and operates a threshing machine, a corn sheller and a wood saw. His farm is splendidly equipped with all modern farm implements and machinery as well as with good buildings. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and his annual sales of cattle and hogs bring him a gratifying return. Today he has one of the best improved farms in his township, lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of a model property of the twentieth century. It forms one of the attractive features of the landscape, and it indicates in its well kept appearance the care and attention of a progressive owner.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Henert have been born two children: Roland H., born January 30, 1909; and Luella C., born December 5, 1912. The parents are well known and have a large circle of warm friends in Reynolds and adjoining townships. Mr. Henert votes with the republican party, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America at Ashton. All of his other interests, however, are made subservient to those of his home and his farm. He gives close application to his business, and his energy, intelligently directed, has brought to him gratifying success.

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### NATHAN BURHENN.

Prominent among the energetic, successful and progressive farmers of Bradford township is numbered Nathan Burhenn, who, during his entire active life has been engaged in farming here and now owns a valuable property of one hundred and sixty acres on section 2. He was born in this township September 30, 1871, and is a son of Philip and Christine (Achenbremer) Burhenn, natives of Germany. In 1865 the parents crossed the Atlantic to America and made their home in Lee county, Illinois. They now make their home in Franklin Grove, this county. They became the parents of ten children, all of whom survive.

Nathan Burhenn grew up on his father's farm and aided in its operation from an early age. He remained at home until his marriage and then bought a farm on section 21, Bradford township. At the end of seven years he sold this property and pur-





BERRIEN FAMILY



chased his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 2. Upon this he has erected a comfortable modern residence and a number of substantial farm buildings, and he has brought the land to a high state of cultivation. He has a productive and valuable property, the attractive appearance of which is a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift.

When he was twenty-one years of age Mr. Burhenn married Miss Mary Eisenberg, a native of Bradford township and a daughter of Peter and Kathrine Eisenberg. The parents were born in Germany and came to America in the early '50s, locating immediately in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away. Of the eleven children born to their union nine still survive. Mr. and Mrs. Burhenn became the parents of three children: Nelta, who was born May 10, 1895, and who died May 1, 1904; Florence M., born December 13, 1899, and Wilbur N., born July 8, 1906. The parents are members of the United Evangelical church, and Mr. Burhenn gives his political allegiance to the republican party, serving at the present time as school director. He is one of the substantial agriculturists of his locality and is held in high regard wherever he is known.

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### JUSTIN L. HARTWELL.

Justin L. Hartwell, proprietor of the Five Oaks Nursery and Fruit Farm, has developed a business of extensive and gratifying proportions and one which is interesting to all who study nature and are in sympathy with the improvement processes that are being developed in connection with the cultivation of flowers and fruits. Born in Greene county, Illinois, in 1848, Mr. Hartwell is a son of James C. and Mary (Corey) Hartwell, both of whom were natives of Boston, but came to this state in 1843. In early life the father had learned and followed the carpenter's trade and to some extent he continued building operations after his removal to the west, but in Illinois he also took up the occupation of farming.

Upon the home farm in his native county Justin L. Hartwell was reared and in practical experience received the early lessons which constituted the foundation upon which his later success has been built. He supplemented his public-school course by study in the State Normal school, from which he was graduated with the

class of 1875. He afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed in Dixon for three years and later at various points in Illinois, being for five years superintendent of the schools at Washington, this state. In the meantime he started a fruit farm near Dixon and in 1889 took up his permanent abode thereon. The place is now called the Five Oaks Nursery and Fruit Farm and is one of the most valuable properties of the kind in this section of Illinois. In his yard stands a fine old elm that his mother brought as a seedling from Boston in the early '80s. There are forty varieties of shade trees upon his place and many beautiful, ornamental and fine fruit trees. In addition to handling trees he also sells decorative plants of all kinds and makes a specialty of peonies, of which he has many wonderful and beautiful varieties. His nursery goods are shipped widely over a number of states and he employs a number of men throughout the year and one hundred people during the fruit season. He has forty acres of land and every inch is made available for purposes for which he wishes to use it. His is indeed one of the fine nurseries of Illinois and his nursery stock is received in most excellent condition, owing to the careful manner in which it is raised and handled in shipment.

In 1872 Mr. Hartwell was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Walker, a daughter of Wilson and Margaret Walker, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Ohio. They came to Illinois in the '50s settling in Pike county and Mrs. Hartwell attended the State Normal school at the same time her husband was a student there. She too has made a special study of flowers and landscape gardening and has many advanced ideas upon the subject. Indeed she is a lady of broad general culture, a leader in progress along those lines in which woman has made her most rapid advancement in recent years. She was the first president of the Dixon's Woman's Club and also president of the Phidian Art Club. She is a lady of notably strong character, of marked individuality and high ideals and her influence is a beneficent and uplifting one in the community. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell have no children of their own, but have adopted and reared three: Mary, who is ex-superintendent of domestic work in the Chicago schools and now teacher of cooking and kindred branches; Leila, at home; and Robin, who is an expert landscape gardener and now has charge of the Five Oaks Nursery and Fruit Farm. Mr. Hartwell votes independently according to the dictates of his judgment and the needs of the situation. He is a well known Mason, belonging to both the lodge and

chapter, and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness.

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### F. W. MEYER.

F. W. Meyer, sole proprietor of a general store at West Brooklyn, displays in his business career, a close conformity to high commercial standards, and his unfaltering diligence and perseverance have been the chief factors in winning for him the creditable place which he occupies in business circles today. For eleven years he has been a resident of this county, arriving in 1902. His birth occurred in Arlington, Bureau county, Illinois, March 4, 1869, his parents being Baltazaar and Catherine (Kurtentbach) Meyer, who were natives of Germany. The father came to the United States about 1845 and took up his abode upon a farm near Arlington. He was fifty-two years of age, when in 1879, his labors were ended in death. His widow survives and now makes her home with her son, F. W. Meyer.

At the usual age F. W. Meyer began his education, passing through consecutive grades until he became a high-school student. He left school, however, at the age of sixteen, but later pursued a course in a business college and thus prepared in large measure for the responsible duties which have since devolved upon him. His early practical business training came to him as clerk of the Western Supply Company at Ladd, Illinois, where he remained for seven years, his long connection with the business being incontrovertible proof of his capability and fidelity in that connection. He was promoted to the position of manager of a store and thus served for six and a half years. On the expiration of that period he came to West Brooklyn and bought out the business of F. D. Gehant & Company, at that time occupying a small frame building. Today Mr. Meyer has the largest store of the kind in the town and occupies a large and substantial brick building. The store is splendidly equipped with an extensive and pleasing line of general merchandise and earnestly desiring to please his patrons, Mr. Meyer has won a substantial measure of success. He has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of another in a business transaction, and the reliability of his methods has been one of the potent forces in the growth of his trade.



The community recognizes him as a public-spirited citizen and one whose efforts in behalf of the general welfare have been far-reaching and beneficial. He votes with the democratic party and upon its ticket was elected township clerk of Hall township, Bureau county, while at the present time he is president of the town board of West Brooklyn. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters, serving as chief ranger in the latter.

At Ladd, Illinois, on the 16th of April, 1891, Mr. Meyer married Miss Isabella Rennie, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rennie, the former a stationary engineer of Iowa, where he met death by accident in 1879. His widow survives and is now living in Canton, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer have five children: Sylvia and Zita, who are graduates of the West Brooklyn high school; Frances and Otto, who are attending school; and Thais, two years of age. The family are well known and have a large circle of warm friends. Mr. Meyer is affable and genial in disposition, courteous in manner, and his fair treatment to all in business has made him the leading merchant of his adopted town.

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#### REV. MICHAEL B. KRUG.

Rev. Michael B. Krug, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church at West Brooklyn, entered upon his present charge on the 15th of September, 1912. He came to Lee county at that date and has since labored earnestly and effectively for the upbuilding of his church. A native of Germany, he was born at Rosenheim and acquired his education in Munich. He came to America in 1881, at the age of thirteen and a half years, making the trip all alone. Here he became a student in the college at Conception, Missouri, from which he was graduated when fifteen years of age. He was afterward employed in clerical capacity in connection with railroad interests and later engaged in farming until from his earnings he had saved enough money to enable him to follow out his plan of preparing for the priesthood, to which he had determined to devote his life. He was ordained by Archbishop Feehan of Chicago in 1899 and since that time has had charge of various parishes. When he was assigned to St. Mary's church there was felt to be the need of a strong, courageous and determined man to



*Rev. M. B. Krug. A. B. A. M.*



promote its upbuilding and growth, and through his efforts splendid progress has been made and the church is now in an excellent condition both spiritually and financially. He is a very progressive man, a wide reader and deep thinker and his consecration to the work is manifest in the earnest, zealous manner with which he has promoted the interests of St. Mary's church and parish.

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### GEORGE HILLS SQUIRES.

Dixon lost a representative citizen and a progressive business man when George Hills Squires was called from this life in September, 1907. In all respects he measured up to high standards of manhood and citizenship and thus at his passing he left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name. He was born in 1843, in the old historic town of Bennington, Vermont, his parents being John N. and Emma L. (Bigelow) Squires, the former a manufacturer. He was descended from two of the most prominent of the old colonial families, the Brewsters and the Bigelows. Following the acquirement of a public school education in his native city, George Hills Squires came to the middle west thinking to have broader business opportunities and advantages in the comparatively new, but growing section of the country. He was nineteen years of age when he arrived in Burlington, Iowa, where he engaged in the wholesale drug business, remaining in that city until 1873. He next went to Troy, New York, where he continued in business until 1886. Two years later he arrived in Champaign, Illinois, where he continued for three years on the expiration of which period he came to Dixon, where he established a paper and wooden box business in which he remained to the time of his death in September, 1907. Throughout his entire life he was accounted an energetic, progressive business man, applying himself closely to all the duties which devolved upon him, meeting every obligation and keeping every engagement. His commercial honesty too was above question and the success which he achieved was the merited reward of persistent effort.

On the 10th of September, 1872, Mr. Squires was united in marriage to Miss Eleanor Dement, a daughter of Colonel John Dement, who came to Dixon about 1840 and engaged in the real-estate business. He was also in the government employ in charge

of the land office at an early date. Later he turned his attention to manufacturing interests and was thus closely identified with the material growth and progress of this section of the state to the time of his death, which occurred in January, 1882. He was a veteran of the Black Hawk war and a pioneer settler, who aided not only in the suppression of the red men, but also in the more active constructive work which has brought about the present day prosperity and progress of the county. His wife was a daughter of Henry Dodge, who was the first governor of Wisconsin, while he and his son Augustus C. Dodge of Iowa and also a half brother, Louis Linn, all served in the United States senate at the same time. The family is one of distinguished prominence in the history of the middle west. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Squires were born a son and two daughters: Mrs. Marie Loraine Hoffer, now residing in Washington, D. C.; Miss Christine, who is at home with her mother and George R., who is engaged in manufacturing in Troy, New York.

The family are all members of the Episcopal church to which Mr. Squires likewise belonged. He took an active and helpful part in its work and was serving as treasurer and vestryman at the time of his death. His life exemplified his Christian faith and belief which found expression in many good works. His sterling traits of character made his name an honored one wherever he was known and although he did not seek to figure prominently in public affairs, the community in which he lived profited by his worth and his activities.

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#### H. L. WINDER, D. V. M.

Dr. H. L. Winder, a well known veterinary surgeon of Ashton, is a native of Iowa, born May 3, 1887. His parents, T. G. and Ena A. (Stolp) Winder, were born in Illinois and both survive. Five children were born to their union, of whom three are yet living.

Dr. H. L. Winder was reared at home and acquired a grammar and high-school education. He is also a graduate of the Western Military Academy. In 1906 he went to Chicago, where he studied medicine for one year, following which he turned his attention to veterinary surgery. In 1913, after receiving his degree, he located in Ashton, where he has since engaged in the practice of his profession. He has already secured a large patronage.



which is constantly increasing as his skill and ability become more widely known.

On the 19th of June, 1913, Dr. Winder was united in marriage to Miss June N. Moser, a daughter of Rev. Henry and Carrie Moser, of Sheridan, La Salle county, Illinois. Mrs. Winder is one of a family of six children and is a graduate of the Hoop-eston Seminary. Dr. Winder is connected fraternally with the Masonic lodge at Ashton and is also a member of the Mystic Workers. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party, and, while he is not active as an office seeker, takes an intelligent interest in public affairs. Young, ambitious and energetic, he is already in a fair way to make a lasting reputation in his chosen field.

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#### F. L. KESSELRING.

F. L. Kesselring is one of the most extensive landowners in Lee county and is well known in agricultural and stock-raising circles of Bradford township by reason of his success in the conduct of his interests. He was born in Frederick, Maryland, August 23, 1871, and is a son of Daniel and Alice (Hooper) Kesselring, natives of that state. The father died in Maryland and is survived by his wife. To their union were born nine children, of whom six survive.

F. L. Kesselring was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools. At the age of twenty-one he moved to Illinois, settling in Lee county, where he has since been influentially associated with farming interests. He owns four hundred acres in Bradford and Lee Center townships, and he has provided his land with substantial buildings and modern equipment. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and has extensive interests along this line, his animals commanding a ready sale in the market.

In October, 1896, Mr. Kesselring was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte C. Reinhart, a daughter of Andrew and Catherine Reinhart, who came to Illinois in 1836, passing away in this state. Mr. and Mrs. Kesselring have two children, Ethel M. and Catherine C. Mr. Kesselring is connected fraternally with Lee Center Lodge, No. 146, A. F. & A. M.; the chapter at Franklin Grove; and the Order of the Eastern Star. He gives his political allegiance

to the democratic party. He is a man of many sterling traits of character, able in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times trustworthy and reliable.

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### HENRY W. HILLISON.

Henry W. Hillison, actively engaged with agricultural interests in Lee county, his home being on section 25, China township, was born on the old family homestead in Bradford township, this county, September 12, 1850. His parents were Ommon and Catherine Elizabeth (Reinhart) Hillison. The former, born in Norway, December 14, 1814, left his native land in 1835 and for two years was a sailor upon coastwise vessels. In 1837 he settled on a claim in Bradford township, Lee county, about two and a half miles north of Lee Center and there remained until his death, which occurred in 1853. He was the first one to leave the Hardanger country of Norway and the first Norwegian to settle in Lee county. Although he established his home here when the Indians still lived in the neighborhood, he never owned a gun, pistol nor revolver nor found it necessary to protect himself from the red men. "He came not to make war, but peace," and he lived quietly among his red neighbors finding that they were appreciative of friendship as well as the members of the white race. It was many years after he located here before there were any other Norwegians in the county. He married Catherine Elizabeth Reinhart who was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in 1832, a daughter of Christian and Christine (Reinhart) Reinhart. In 1845 they crossed the Atlantic to New York and thence made their way direct to Lee county. It was on the 14th of November, 1849, that their daughter gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Hillison. She long survived her husband, passing away July 20, 1900. They had two children, Henry and Betsey Josephine, the latter the wife of Conrad Brandau, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Henry W. Hillison has spent his entire life in Lee county, residing always in Bradford or in China townships. He has ever been extensively engaged in farming and his holdings of farm land are now large. In developing his fields he has employed the most progressive methods and his diligence and determination have constituted the foundation of his success.

On the 8th of May, 1873, Mr. Hillison was married to Miss Elizabeth Roth, who was born in Germany, February 18, 1853, and was brought to this country by her parents in 1858. She is a daughter of John and Barbara Roth, who were also natives of Germany and who spent their last days in Lee county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hillison have been born five children: John H., Christian E. and William C., all living in China township; Reinhart A., of Amboy township; and Celia Josephine, at home. The sons are all actively engaged in farming in this county. There are also eight grandsons and one granddaughter.

During the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, Mr. Hillison visited the crew of Norsemen that came all the way from Norway to Chicago in a row boat to demonstrate that such a feat was possible and thus give additional proof to the claim that the Norsemen visited America before Columbus. Mr. Hillison was upon their boat a number of times—an open row boat with a canvass over the provisions. It was thirty feet long and sixteen feet wide in the center and no sails were used in propelling it, the motive force being supplied by the sturdy arms of the sons of Norway—a fact of which Mr. Hillison is proud. Owing to the fact that his father was the first man to leave the Hardanger country in Norway and settle in Lee county, Mr. Hillison was invited to attend the reunion of the people of that country at Ellsworth, Iowa, in 1912 and at Lee county in 1913. Mr. Hillison is a Mason and is past master of Lee Center Lodge, No. 146. He has also initiated four of his sons in the blue lodge. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and in politics he is a progressive. He has held many township offices and is deeply and helpfully interested in all that pertains to the progress and welfare of county and state.

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#### ADAM H. GONNERMANN.

Farming interests of Lee county are well represented by Adam H. Gonnermann, who since 1904 has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in Bradford township, where he now owns one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land. He was born here May 10, 1878, and is a son of Henry and Katherine Gonnermann, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1866, locating in

Lee county, Illinois. The mother died here in 1902 and is survived by her husband, who makes his home in Franklin Grove.

Adam H. Gonnermann was reared upon his father's farm in Bradford township and assisted in its operation until he was twenty-six years of age. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits upon rented land for five years and following this bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 3, Bradford township. He has labored industriously in the development of this property and has made it valuable and productive in a high degree. Its buildings are substantial and in good repair and its equipment modern, and it lacks none of the accessories necessary to the conduct of a modern farming property.

On December 14, 1904, Mr. Gonnermann was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Kurth, who was born in Ogle county, Illinois, a daughter of Christ and Amelia (Witzel) Kurth, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in the '70s and located in Lee county, this state, whence they later moved to Ogle county, where they now reside. In their family were five children, all of whom survive. Mr. and Mrs. Gonnermann have two children: Glenn W., born March 24, 1908, and Henry C., born March 1, 1912. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Gonnermann gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He holds the office of school director and he takes an intelligent interest in public affairs although he is not an active politician. He is held in high esteem in the community as a progressive citizen and a prosperous farmer.

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### HARRIET E. GARRISON, M. D.

Little more than a generation ago woman had no place in the business world. She was supposed to be concerned only with the duties of the household, save that she was given the instruction of the young as a teacher in the schools—a work but little removed from the household and family cares. Today there is practically no avenue of activity closed to her and she has proven herself equal to the representatives of the sterner sex in all that calls for intelligent comprehension and skill, save, perhaps, only in the point of physical strength. None today deny her prominent place in the medical profession and among the more successful physicians of Dixon is Dr. Harriet E. Garrison, who was born in Lee county,



DR. HARRIET E. GARRISON





October 28, 1848. Her parents, William and Amelia (Omen) Garrison, were both natives of Pennsylvania, but left the east in 1845 and made their way to Illinois, with Lee county as their destination. They traveled overland by team, bringing with them their seven children, the eldest at the time being ten years of age. They were also accompanied by Mathias Garrison, brother of William Garrison. Their route lay at times through dense forests or over open uncultivated prairies and they saw much wild game while upon the way and after their arrival in this county. On reaching Illinois, Mr. Garrison obtained a tract of government land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. With characteristic energy he began its development and converted it into productive fields from which he annually gathered good crops that enabled him to provide a comfortable living for his family. He continued upon his farm until death called him. At one time he removed to Ogle county, Illinois, where he operated a sawmill for a brief period and then returned to Lee county, where his remaining days were passed. After the arrival of the parents in Illinois four more children were added to the family, making eleven in all. Dr. Garrison was trained to the usual household duties but the parents were ambitious to give their children good educational opportunities and she was anxious to take advantage of such. Accordingly she supplemented her public-school course by study at Mount Morris, Illinois, and also in the Rock River Seminary. By this time she had determined to engage in the practice of medicine and pursued her studies at the Women's Medical College of Chicago, from which she was graduated with the class of 1876. She also took a six months' hospital course and thus gained the broad knowledge and experience which only hospital service can bring.

On the 5th of October, 1876, Dr. Garrison came to Dixon and opened an office and has since engaged in practice here, although she went to New York city in 1890 and again in 1891 for post-graduate work. In this and other ways she has continually broadened her knowledge and increased her skill. She traveled in Europe with a party of physicians in 1897. She was the only general practitioner among them and when Dr. Senn, a noted surgeon of Chicago, became ill she was called upon to attend him. Her trip was made for the purpose of attending the International Medical Association at Moscow, Russia, and in 1900 Dr. Garrison again went abroad attending the International Medical Association at Paris. She has attended five different meetings of the

American Medical Association and she is also a member of the Lee County and the Illinois State Medical Societies. She has largely specialized in the treatment of diseases of children and is a recognized authority on many points relative thereto. Articles which she has written have appeared in various leading medical journals of the country and many prominent men of the profession have borne testimony as to their merits. She has ever held to the highest professional standards and step by step has advanced to a conspicuous, prominent and honorable position in the ranks of the medical profession in Illinois.

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### HARRY J. NASS.

Harry J. Nass is the owner of a well improved farm in Bradford township, situated on sections 11 and 12. It comprises two hundred and forty acres and the greater part of the land is now in a high state of cultivation, its neat and attractive appearance indicating the careful supervision of the owner. Harry J. Nass was born in the township in which he still makes his home on the 11th of February, 1871, and is a son of John and Augusta Nass, both of whom were natives of Germany, but came to America in early life. They located upon a farm in Bradford township, and the father has since been a resident of Illinois, now living retired in Ashton, where the mother passed away.

Upon the old homestead farm in Bradford township Harry J. Nass was reared and was early trained to the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He pursued his education in the district schools near his father's home and remained with his parents until twenty-five years of age, when, ambitious to start out in life on his own account, he rented a farm for three years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings and his industry and close economy at length enabled him to purchase a farm. He invested in two hundred and forty acres on sections 11 and 12, Bradford township, where he now resides, and he has since given his time and attention to the further improvement of the place. He rebuilt and remodeled the buildings and also erected some new ones, and the farm today is a splendidly improved property, everything about the place indicating his careful supervision and progressive methods.

Mr. Nass was united in marriage to Miss Anna Krug, a member of a family mentioned elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Nass have been born three children: Floyd, Arl and Clarence. The parents are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Nass gives his political allegiance to the republican party, believing firmly in its principles as factors in good government. Having been a lifelong resident of this county, he has witnessed much of its growth and development and has seen the changes wrought by time and man, whereby Lee county has been brought to a prominent position among the prosperous and progressive counties of the state. He has led a busy life, and his industry and energy have brought him substantial return.

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### MRS. MARY S. JOHNSON.

Mrs. Mary S. Johnson is a representative of a family whose members have been well known in Lee county since pioneer times, and she likewise has made substantial contributions to the agricultural development of this locality through her able management of her farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 9, Brooklyn township. She is a native of Lee county, born in 1851, a daughter of Edwin and Harriet (Mayo) Morey, the former of whom died in 1888 and is buried at Inlet, Lee Center township. His wife survives him and makes her home with her daughter, having reached the age of eighty-four. Representatives of the Morey family came to Lee county in the early '40s, and the name has been an honored one in this community since that time.

Mrs. Mary S. Johnson acquired her education in the public schools of Lee Center and laid aside her books at the age of seventeen, afterward remaining at home until her marriage. In 1871 she wedded Oliver P. Johnson, Jr., a son of Oliver P. and Elizabeth (Ross) Johnson, both of whom have passed away. The father died in 1891 and the mother in 1895 and both are buried in West Brooklyn. Oliver P. Johnson, Jr., was connected for many years with agricultural interests of this locality, owning and operating two hundred and forty acres on section 9, Brooklyn township. He brought this place to a high state of cultivation and became well known as a progressive and substantial agriculturist. He passed away in June, 1905, and his death was deeply and

widely regretted, depriving Lee county of one of its most valued and representative citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver P. Johnson, Jr., became the parents of eight children: Carrie, the wife of Dr. E. C. White; Hattie, who married Harry Haskell, of Pasadena, California; Charles, a mail clerk at Omaha, Nebraska; Oliver P., who resides at Pasadena, California; Edwin M., a painter and decorator; Ruby, at home; Daisy, who died in 1880 and is buried in West Brooklyn, and Minnie, who passed away in 1906 and was laid to rest in the same locality. Mrs. Johnson makes her home in West Brooklyn and since her husband's death has supervised the operation of the farm. She is well and favorably known in this part of Lee county, where she has spent her entire life and where her many excellent characteristics have gained her an extensive circle of friends.

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#### HERMAN HERWIG.

Herman Herwig has engaged in agricultural pursuits in Lee county for a number of years, and he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Ashton township. He was born in China township, this county, October 12, 1874, and is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Schinzer) Herwig, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1864 and located in Lee county, where the father died in 1904 and where the mother still resides. Of the seven children born to their union, six are yet living.

Herman Herwig was reared in China township, dividing his time in his childhood between his school books and work upon his father's farm. When he was twenty-one he bought a farm in the vicinity of the homestead and resided upon this for six years, after which he sold the property and moved to Dixon where he lived nine years. He then moved to Ashton township, where he now resides. He owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 33 and he has made this one of the finest farms in this locality by his intelligent and capable management. He has provided the place with substantial buildings and modern machinery and he neglects no opportunity to make his farm more attractive or valuable.

In 1895 Mr. Herwig was united in marriage to Miss Anna Ventler, who was born in Bradford township, December 27, 1873.



She is a daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Gonnerman) Venter, natives of Germany. In this family were nine children, six of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Herwig have two sons: Roy A., who was born January 10, 1897, and who is now in college at Dixon, Illinois; and Lee C., born August 10, 1898, a student in the Ashton high school. Mr. and Mrs. Herwig are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Herwig gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. Being a man of sterling character, he has always merited and received the confidence and respect of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

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### MRS. ELIZABETH HARPER.

Mrs. Elizabeth Harper, who owns and operates a fine farm of eighty acres on section 29, Viola township, was born in North Carolina, March 12, 1832. She is a daughter of David and Phoebe (Jones) Cox, both of whom died in 1893 and are buried in Earlville, La Salle county, Illinois.

Mrs. Elizabeth Harper acquired her education in the public schools of Ottawa, Illinois, and laid aside her books at the age of fifteen. She afterward remained at home until her marriage, which occurred about six years thereafter. She wedded Alexander Harper, who was born in Greene county, Illinois, in 1828, a son of Ephraim and Christine (Kessler) Harper, both of whom have passed away and are buried in Whitehall.

Alexander Harper acquired his education in the public schools of Greene county, Illinois, and laid aside his books at the age of twenty. He afterward assisted his parents until 1854 and following his marriage began farming independently. He came to Lee county in 1871 and purchased eighty acres of land on section 29, Viola township, carrying forward the work of cultivating this property along practical lines and making it in the course of time one of the most valuable farms in the township. He continued active in his agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1900. He was a man of exemplary character and high standards and his passing was widely and deeply regretted.

Mr. and Mrs. Harper became the parents of four children. Lillian is the wife of Rufus Johnston, a farmer in Missouri. Annie married Clark Butler, a farmer of Lee county. Jennie

married Amzi Van Canpen, who died in 1907 and is buried in Spokane, Washington. They had three children, Edith, Arthur and Bessie. Ella, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Harper, died in infancy. Mrs. Harper still retains the homestead and in its cultivation has demonstrated her excellent business ability and enterprise. She has many friends in Lee county to whom her excellent traits of mind and character have greatly endeared her.

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### W. J. EDWARDS.

For over thirty years W. J. Edwards has been engaged in the livery business in Amboy, his native city, and during the intervening period has gained success and prominence in business circles and a place among the men of marked ability and substantial worth in the community. Since 1908 he has been supervisor of Amboy township and the duties of this office he discharges in a capable and progressive way. He was born September 15, 1855, and is a son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Saul) Edwards. The father was the first livery man in Amboy, establishing an enterprise of this character here in 1855. He was also a railroad contractor and aided in the construction of the Illinois Central, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Toledo & St. Louis Railroads. He was a staunch republican in his political beliefs and held various public offices, including those of sheriff and county supervisor. During the Civil war he was horse buyer for the government and he proved always competent and trustworthy in positions of responsibility. He died in April, 1900, at the age of seventy-two, and is buried in the Prairie Repose cemetery near Amboy. His wife survives him and makes her home in that city.

W. J. Edwards acquired his early education in the public schools of Amboy and afterward attended Chicago University, which he left at the age of nineteen. He then engaged in the livery business and in railroad contracting under his father and he has been connected with the former occupation for a period of more than thirty years. He has now an excellent establishment and controls a large patronage, for his prices are at all times reasonable and his business methods above reproach.

In Amboy, in May, 1880, Mr. Edwards married Miss Rose Nannery, a native of New York city. Mrs. Edwards passed away



W. J. EDWARDS



June 4, 1910, and is buried in St. Patrick's cemetery in Amboy. She left five children: Elizabeth, a graduate of Sinsinawa College and also of the State Normal School; Annie, residing at home; Evelyn, a graduate of the Amboy high school; and John and William, who are assisting their father.

Mr. Edwards is a republican in his political views and is a member of the board of aldermen of Amboy. He is treasurer of the Lee County Fair Association and has important fraternal affiliations, being high priest of the Masonic chapter and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of Dixon. During a period of connection with business interests of Amboy covering thirty years and more he has been found honorable, faithful and reliable in his business relations and has an enviable reputation, based upon a long period of upright and straightforward dealing.

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#### E. C. WHITE, M. D.

E. C. White, M. D., actively engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at West Brooklyn since 1894, entered upon the work of the profession when a young man, and his ability and power have developed with the passing years. He has lived in Lee county since 1873, being less than two years of age when the family removed to Illinois. His birth occurred in Chateaugay, New York, near Lake Champlain, November 4, 1871, his parents being Carey and Eunice (Cobb) White, who on coming to the middle west settled on a farm near Paw Paw, where the father carried on general agricultural pursuits. He became an active republican and a recognized leader in his party in this locality. The family numbered eight children: Clarence, who died in 1887 at the age of twenty-two years and was laid to rest in the Paw Paw cemetery; Carey J., who died in 1892 at the age of thirteen years; Edwin J., who follows farming near Paw Paw; Alma, the wife of Jacob Fischer, residing at Searboro, Illinois; Marion, a practicing physician of Dixon; David Chandler, whose home is in Mendota; E. C., of this review, and Merton A., a hardware merchant at Leland, La Salle county, Illinois.

E. C. White acquired his primary education in the schools of Paw Paw, being graduated from the high school with the class of 1890. His professional course was pursued in the University of



Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1894, the M. D. degree being conferred upon him. Immediately afterward he came to West Brooklyn and opened an office. From the beginning his success has been gratifying and has grown with the passing years, as his experience and reading have added to his knowledge and promoted his efficiency. He also conducts a drug store and is postmaster of West Brooklyn.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Dr. White has been an earnest republican, never faltering in his allegiance to the party. He is clerk of the town board and for ten years has been one of the directors on the board of education. He is interested in all that pertains to the general welfare and is the champion of every measure that he deems beneficial to the community. Fraternally he is well known as a Mason and as a charter member of the West Brooklyn camp, M. W. A.

In Fulton, Illinois, on the 1st of January, 1896, Dr. White was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Johnson, a daughter of Oliver P. and Mary S. Johnson. Her father was one of the prominent old settlers and his father was the founder of the town of West Brooklyn. Oliver P. Johnson died June 8, 1905, and in his passing the county lost one of its honored early settlers. Dr. and Mrs. White have become the parents of three children: Clarence, a graduate of the high school of West Brooklyn; and Geneva and Earl C., who are attending school. Dr. White erected his office and business building in which the postoffice is located. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and its teachings are the guiding element in their lives. He belongs to the Lee County, Illinois State and American Medical Association and is interested in all that pertains to the advancement of the profession, that promotes its activity and adds to its efficiency in checking the ravages of disease. He is an energetic, enterprising man in all that he undertakes and does not stop short of successful completion.

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### WILLIAM VOGELER.

Among the residents that Germany has furnished to Lee county is William Vogeler, who makes his home on section 21, Reynolds township. He owns valuable property in this township, improved with all the accessories and conveniences of the model

farm of the twentieth century. His birth occurred in Germany, May 15, 1857, his parents being Sebastian and Elizabeth Vogeler, both of whom were natives of the fatherland, but in 1868 they came with their family to the new world and settled in Lee county, Illinois, where their remaining days were spent. They became the parents of seven children, of whom four are yet living.

William Vogeler was a little lad of eleven years when he accompanied his parents on the voyage across the Atlantic. He was reared in the usual manner of farm boys and continued to assist his father in the cultivation of the old homestead until twenty-five years of age. He was then married to Miss Anna M. Pippert, who was born in Germany, October 13, 1857, and is a daughter of John and Eva Dorothy Pippert, who were likewise natives of Germany and came to America in 1881. They established their home in Lee county, where they continued to reside until called from this life. Of their family of twelve children five are living.

Following his marriage William Vogeler purchased the farm upon which he now resides, on section 21, Reynolds township; and in addition he also owns one hundred and sixty acres on section 20 and one hundred acres on sections 22 and 27, Reynolds township. He has improved all of his land, and his home place gives evidence of the careful and practical supervision of the owner. There are substantial buildings, well kept fences and the latest improved machinery, and the farm presents a pleasing appearance with its well tilled fields, giving promise of golden harvests. He also owns a home in Ashton.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Vogeler have been born ten children: Charles C., born May 22, 1883; Catherine E., who was born August 2, 1884, and is the wife of Charles Mall, now of Ogle county, Illinois; William, born July 14, 1885; George E., born June 13, 1887; Bert O., born August 23, 1889; Henry W., born May 21, 1891; Emma, who was born March 26, 1893, and is the wife of Boyd T. Butler, of this county; Vera K., who was born January 6, 1895; Malinda A., who was born November 17, 1896, and died on the 13th of June, 1897, and Gertrude M., born March 19, 1899. Mr. Vogeler and his family are members of the Evangelical church, in which he is serving as a trustee. His political support is given to the republican party, and he has acted both as school director and road commissioner. For about forty-six years he has lived in Lee county, witnessing its growth and development, and he can relate many interesting points relative to its history. He

has lived to see remarkable changes since he arrived and has ever manifested a helpful attitude toward projects for the public benefit. In his business he has displayed many of the sterling traits of his German ancestry and has become a substantial farmer of the community.

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### FRANCIS LEFFELMAN.

Since 1867 Francis Leffelman has lived in Lee county and during the intervening period has risen by the force of his ability and enterprise from comparative poverty to a position among the extensive landowners and prosperous farmers of May township. He has witnessed a great deal of the growth and development of the community and has contributed in substantial measure to general progress. He was born in Herofeld, Bavaria, Germany, July 4, 1842, and is a son of John and Margaret Leffelman, also natives of the fatherland. John Leffelman emigrated to America in 1852 and settled in Adams county, Pennsylvania, where he remained until his death, which occurred in Pleasant Valley in April, 1863. His wife afterward moved to Iowa and her death occurred in Westphalia, that state, in 1901.

Francis Leffelman acquired his education in the district schools of Adams county, Pennsylvania, laying aside his books at the age of fourteen. He afterward worked as a farm laborer until 1862, when he enlisted in a Maryland regiment for service in the Civil war. After being at the front for a short time he, in 1863, moved to Ogle county, Illinois, where he worked by the month for Frank Simons, a well known farmer in that locality. At the end of nine months Mr. Leffelman rented a farm in Ogle county and after three years moved to Lee county, where he rented a tract of land from William Long for six years. He then purchased one hundred and twenty acres, borrowing the money with which to pay for his land. With characteristic determination and enterprise he applied himself to the development of this place with such success that he had soon paid all of his obligations, and at intervals thereafter he bought more land until he finally acquired the eight hundred and eighty acres which is his today. Upon this he made excellent improvements in buildings and equipment and engaged extensively in general farming and stock-raising. He has now,



FRANCIS LEFFELMAN





however, rented practically all of his land to his sons, although he still makes his home upon the farm.

At Freeport, Illinois, Mr. Leffelman married Miss Catherine Miltenberger, who died in 1865, leaving four children: John, who is assisting his father; George, a hardware merchant of Sublette; Ann, the wife of Cornelius Vossen, a farmer in Sublette township; and Sister Mary, who was a teacher in the Franciscan Order and who died in Milwaukee. On the 1st of February, 1867, Mr. Leffelman was again married, his second union being with Miss Catherine Lempey, a daughter of Philip and Christina Lempey, natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to Illinois in 1860 and settled in Ohio Station. Both have passed away and are buried in St. Mary's cemetery, May township. To Mr. Leffelman's second union were born four children: Michael, a farmer and stock-raiser in May township; Margaret, the wife of Jacob Kohler, a farmer in Sublette township; Joseph, engaged in agricultural pursuits in May township; and Louise, the wife of Andrew Steffens, of Sublette township.

Mr. Leffelman is a member of the Catholic church, and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He was road commissioner and school director for a number of years and proved as capable and trustworthy in public office as in all other relations of life. A residence of forty-six years in Lee county has made him widely and favorably known and has brought him into prominence as a farsighted business man, an able agriculturist and a representative citizen.

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### CHARLES H. GONNERMANN.

Charles H. Gonnermann, a progressive and successful young farmer of Bradford township, was born here October 1, 1883, a son of Henry and Katherine Gonnermann, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. He was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the public schools of the township, spending his time when not engaged with his books aiding his father in the operation of the homestead. When he became of age he took charge of the home farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 3, Bradford township, and this he has since successfully operated. He has a valuable property provided with excellent buildings and equipment, and he carries

forward the work of its development in a practical and progressive way.

On the 20th of January, 1910, Mr. Gonnermann was united in marriage to Miss Nellie A. Keacker, who was born June 20, 1885, in Bradford township, this county, a daughter of William and Minnie Keacker, the father a native of Germany, the mother of Lee county. The parents came to America at an early date and still reside in Bradford township. Mr. and Mrs. Gonnermann are members of the German Lutheran church, and Mr. Gonnermann gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is still a young man but he has already become well known in agricultural circles and will undoubtedly be carried forward into still more important relations with farming interests of his native township.

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#### CHARLIE GLEIM.

During the entire period of his active life Charlie Gleim has been engaged in agricultural pursuits and since 1892 has been the owner of one of the finest farms in Lee county, his holdings comprising two hundred and eighty acres on section 28, Ashton township. He was born in Germany on the 28th of October, 1858, and is a son of Adam and Louise Gleim, also natives of that country. They came to America in 1867 and located in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away. To their union were born nine children, of whom eight are yet living.

Charlie Gleim was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the district schools of this locality. When he was twenty-one years of age he began working as a farm hand and so continued for six years. In 1892 he became an independent farmer, buying the property which he now owns. This comprises two hundred and eighty acres on section 28, Ashton township, and Mr. Gleim has made excellent improvements upon it, providing it with good buildings and modern machinery. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and has built up an extensive business along this line.

On the 11th of April, 1887, Mr. Gleim was united in marriage to Miss Mary Reitz, a native of Lee county and a daughter of Adam and Barbara Reitz. Mr. and Mrs. Gleim have five children: Lena B. D., who was born January 28, 1888, and who is

now the wife of Fred Bork, of Ogle county, Illinois; William H. born January 18, 1890, at home; Frank T., whose birth occurred November 17, 1891; Alta M., born August 8, 1898; and Amanda D., born December 12, 1903. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Gleim gives his political allegiance to the republican party, taking an intelligent interest in the advancement and growth of Lee county, where he has resided for many years. He is a man of enterprise and ability and has, therefore, been carried forward into important relations with agricultural interests of this locality.

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### F. D. GEHANT.

No history of West Brooklyn would be complete without mention of the Gehant family, for representatives of the name have been most active and prominent in the development, agricultural and commercial, of this part of the county. Through all his business career F. D. Gehant has borne an untarnished name, and it has been through close application and unfaltering perseverance that he has won the success that now enables him to live retired. His birth occurred near Ashton, January 30, 1870, his parents being Claude and Mary (Antoine) Gehant. The father's residence in Lee county dated from 1835, only three years after the Black Hawk war, when settlers in this part of the county were very few. Everything was yet in a primitive condition, and the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. In fact wild game of all kinds was to be had and there were still many traces of the Indian to be found in this part of the state. In June the prairies were starred with a million wild flowers and in December were covered with a dazzling unbroken sheet of snow. The father became the owner of forty acres of wild land and began the development of a farm. The machinery and implements were comparatively crude at that day and much of the work had to be done by hand, but as the years passed on the labors of Mr. Gehant wrought a marvelous change in the appearance of his place, and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his property until he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, although he later sold forty acres of this. He brought his fields to a high state of cultivation and added many modern improvements to his farm. His life's labors were ended in death

in 1901, when he had reached the age of seventy-two years. He had long survived his wife, who died in 1883, at the age of thirty-three years. They were worthy people highly esteemed by all who knew them, and they left behind many friends. They had four children, of whom one died in infancy, while Euphemia, who became the wife of A. F. Jeauguenat, died January 25, 1900, at the age of thirty-three years. Arthur, the only surviving member of the family beside F. D. Gehant, is a farmer residing on the old homestead.

At the usual age F. D. Gehant entered the district schools and therein mastered the common branches of learning before putting aside his text-books at the age of seventeen years. The succeeding five years were devoted to work upon the home farm, and when twenty-two years of age he purchased a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres near Thornton, Iowa. He spent three years upon that farm, after which he sold the property and returned to his native county. At West Brooklyn he purchased a general store, which he conducted for several years, meeting with good success in the undertaking. He next entered the banking business of the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company, being associated therewith for more than a decade, at the end of which time he purchased a hardware store at Viola, Mercer county. This he conducted successfully for eighteen months and then sold at a good profit, although he is still the owner of the building. Returning to his native county he bought seven acres of land near West Brooklyn, which he is now laying out as an addition to the town. He is a very progressive man readily recognizing and utilizing opportunities, and whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion. In addition to his other business activities he was one of the promoters of the West Brooklyn Farmers Elevator Company, of which he was treasurer for four years and is still one of the stockholders.

It was at West Brooklyn on the 7th of June, 1893, that Mr. Gehant was united in marriage to Miss Mary Henry, a daughter of Leopold and Delphine Henry, the former one of the pioneer agriculturists of the county, now residing in West Brooklyn. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have been born six children: Leafy, who is a student in the Notre Dame University of Indiana; Claude, a high school pupil; Veronica, Cyril and Fintan, all of whom are attending school; and Melvin, two years of age.

Mr. Gehant is an earnest republican in his political views, and his position upon any vital question is never an equivocal one.



He has held the office of mayor of West Brooklyn for eleven years and was secretary of the board of education for an equal period. In both positions he made a splendid record of fidelity, loyalty and capability, and his worth is uniformly acknowledged throughout the community in which almost his entire life has been passed.

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### ISAAC EDWARDS.

Isaac Edwards was numbered among Lee county's most prominent citizens, becoming recognized as a successful business man, while in public life he contributed much to the general welfare through the faithful, conscientious and able manner in which he discharged his official duties. He was born July 31, 1828, in Somersetshire, England, a son of Marmaduke and Charlotte (Tavener) Edwards. The father was a shoemaker by trade and thus provided for his family, which numbered six children. The mother died in 1840, and the father afterward married again and had six children by the second union.

Isaac Edwards was the only one of the children of the first marriage who came to America, but two of his half brothers emigrated to the United States—Job, who located in Warren, Illinois, and William, of Amboy. The educational advantages of Isaac Edwards were limited. He was but twelve years of age at the time of his mother's death, and soon afterward he began to provide for his own support. He remained in England until 1850 and then came to America. Proceeding westward, he stopped at Elgin, Illinois, where he was employed on the construction of the Chicago & Galena Railroad. The following winter he did similar work in Indiana but in the spring of 1851 returned to this state, working first at Rockford and later at Pecatonica. He had three contracts on the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad and graded seven miles of that line. He afterward spent a short time at Forreston, Illinois, and subsequently came to Amboy, where he was employed on the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad until it was completed. He then engaged in the livery business and in general teaming. Subsequently he had contracts on the construction of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; the Kansas City branch of the Alton; the Chicago & Pacific, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads. He



also devoted ten years to railroad work in Iowa but during this time still continued his business in Amboy.

In 1879 Mr. Edwards was elected county treasurer but the board of supervisors questioned the sufficiency of his bond, although his bondsmen were several of the most wealthy farmers of Lee county. On referring the case to the states attorney he held that they could not accept a new bond after the 1st of December, and as they had assembled at the last moment no time was left to make a new bond and thus the office was lost. In 1882 Mr. Edwards was elected sheriff of Lee county and during the four years which he spent as the incumbent in that position he resided in Dixon. In the meantime his son conducted his livery business in Amboy until the expiration of the father's term of office. During the Civil war Mr. Edwards furnished the government with many horses. He was an extensive dealer in horses and in addition to that business he successfully carried on farming, owning over five hundred acres of good land. While carrying on his individual business affairs he likewise filled many offices, serving for an extended period as county supervisor, as collector of city taxes and for several terms as mayor of Amboy. In his political views he was an earnest republican and at all times was public-spirited and active in support of interests pertaining to the welfare and progress of town and county.

In 1853 Mr. Edwards was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Saul, a daughter of Thomas Saul of Forreston, Illinois, and they became the parents of eight children, of whom four died in childhood. Those surviving are: William J. and James A., the former engaged in the livery business and the latter in the ice business in Amboy; John H., who is a traveling salesman; and Isaac F., living in Dixon. Mr. Edwards' death caused deep regret to all who knew him, for he was one of the well known citizens of Lee county, held in high esteem by all.

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#### HARTMAN M. KERSTEN.

Hartman M. Kersten is now living retired in Ashton, but for many years he was a most active, energetic business man, carrying on general farming and the raising of blooded stock. He is still the owner of a valuable farm property upon which is a large grain elevator. Lee county numbers him among her native sons.





MR. AND MRS. HARTMAN M. KERSTEN



ELEVATOR OF HARTMAN M. KERSTEN





his birth having occurred in Bradford township, January 13, 1860, his parents being John and Christine (Hildebrandt) Kersten, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. The country schools afforded him his early educational privileges and he afterward spent two winter terms in Northwestern College at Naperville, Illinois, attending there in 1881 and 1882. He then returned home and assisted his father through two succeeding years. He afterward purchased seventy acres from his father-in-law, located on section 16, Bradford township, while his wife inherited eighty acres adjoining. Upon this tract, then comprising one hundred and fifty acres, he began farming and converted the land into an arable section, readily producing good crops as the result of his progressive methods of tilling the soil. He erected modern buildings and made a specialty of raising blooded stock, handling largely Galloway cattle. As prosperity crowned his labors he purchased more land from time to time, becoming the owner of the Gleim farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Bradford township and also another tract of one hundred and nine acres in the same township. He likewise has other land in Lee county situated near Dixon. He continued upon the home farm until December, 1903, when he sold his blooded stock and removed with his family to Ashton, where he now makes his home, living retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest. In 1913 he erected upon his farm in Bradford township a grain elevator, having a capacity of ten thousand bushels, and he also built a private siding from the Northern Illinois Electric Railroad to the elevator, thus securing excellent shipping facilities.

On the 15th of January, 1885, Hartman M. Kersten was married to Miss Mary Gross, a daughter of Reinhart and Martha (Reinhart) Gross, who were natives of Kerr-Hessen, Germany.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kersten were born three children. Arthur K., who owns and operates a farm in Ashton township, wedded Miss Minnie Henert and has one son, Clarence Hartman Kersten. Rosa C. is the wife of Edward M. Herwig, who owns and cultivates a tract of land in Bradford township. Alice E. Kersten is deceased.

Mr. Kersten is a member of the United Evangelical church and has taken an active and helpful part in the various lines of church work, serving for many years as Sunday-school superintendent. When a youth of thirteen he had been converted through the efforts and teaching of Christian Schuster and Joetchel. He is a progressive in politics and has been a delegate to republican

county conventions. He filled the office of road commissioner and for eleven years was school director. Mr. Kersten believes firmly in promoting the public-school interests and in giving to the youth of the land the best educational opportunities possible. He is one of the prominent and prosperous citizens of Lee county, and while promoting his individual success, has always found time to aid in the general development and the advancement of the public welfare.

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### WILLIAM C. HOLDREN.

William C. Holdren is the owner of a farm of eighty acres on section 10, Brooklyn township, near the city limits of Compton. He came to this county in 1851, brought by his parents, John and Phoebe (Derr) Holdren. He was then but a year old, his birth having occurred in Pennsylvania, June 15, 1850. The father had purchased the property upon which the family settled in 1848. Three years later he brought his family to the middle west, and they took up their abode upon the tract of government land which he had secured, and which was still in its wild condition, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made. With characteristic energy he began its development and converted the place into rich fields. He was a very popular man, and one who left the impress of his individuality for good upon the community in which he lived. He was at the head of the Union League and was therefore in thorough sympathy with the Union cause and the administration at Washington. One of his brothers was an enlisted soldier in the Union army. John Holdren died in 1898, having for two years survived his wife, who passed away in 1896, their remains being interred in Malugin Grove cemetery.

William C. Holdren was the eldest in his father's family. He had comparatively limited opportunities of attending school, having to put aside his text-books at the age of fifteen years in order to assist his father in the further cultivation and development of the home place. He was thus employed until he attained his majority, after which he learned the carpenter's trade with his uncle, Mathias, with whom he worked until 1881. In that year he secured a position as fireman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and spent three years in that way. He next began building residences in this vicinity and erected many of the

substantial homes of the district until 1907. In that year he accepted the position of salesman for the Acme Harvester Company and has found the business not only congenial but profitable. He seems almost intuitively to know how to approach a man and by square dealing and progressive methods has found no difficulty in disposing of the goods which he handles. He owns two farms which are now managed by his son, and Mr. Holdren is largely concentrating his attention upon commercial pursuits.

On the 28th of February, 1882, in Dixon, Mr. Holdren was united in marriage to Miss Marilla E. Adrian, a daughter of Evans and Mary Ann Adrian. Her father was a large stock-raiser and was the owner of the Glenwood farm. The mother died in March, 1912, and was laid to rest in the Malugin Grove cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Holdren have become the parents of three children: Fannie, the wife of William Bird, a retired farmer; John, a representative farmer of Viola township; and Emma, who resides at home.

In politics Mr. Holdren is a progressive, while fraternally he is connected with the Masons, holding membership in the lodge at Compton and in the chapter and commandery at Mendota. He belongs to the United Brethren church, in which he is serving as a trustee. He attributes his success and justly so to his hard work, and his close application and energy constitute an example that others might profitably follow.

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### J. F. SANDERS.

J. F. Sanders, who died in Texas in 1905, was for many years connected with agricultural interests of Lee county. His birth occurred here March 9, 1855, his parents being Henry and Rachel (Morgan) Sanders, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. The parents came to Lee county, Illinois, in their early years and both passed away here.

J. F. Sanders was reared in Lee county and following the completion of his studies engaged in farming. In the spring of 1889 after the death of his first wife, who passed away in 1888, he, with his two sons, moved in with his brother, John W., and they farmed together for a year or two. In 1891 he was again married. In 1905 he moved to Texas where he had bought two hundred and thirty-six acres of land, upon which his death occurred

in the same year. His widow still owns the property but after her husband's death returned to Lee county, where she now resides.

In January, 1881, Mr. Sanders married Miss Martha George, a native of Lee county, daughter of David and Susan (Reed) George, and moved on his father-in-law's farm in Bradford township, where he farmed until 1889. To this union were born three children: Nathan H., who now lives in Ashton; Clarence D., who lives on his farm in Bradford township; and Grace M., who was born in May, 1888, and died the same year. Mr. Sanders also lost his wife in that year. In 1891 he married again, his second union being with Miss Annie L. Sanders, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (McCleaf) Sanders, both born in Adams county, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders became the parents of two sons: Robert F., a resident of Iowa, and Roger A., at home. Mrs. Sanders is a member of the Lutheran church and is widely known in Lee county, where she is recognized as a woman of exemplary character and high principles.

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### AUGUST F. GEHANT.

August F. Gehant is the owner of two hundred acres of fine land on section 31, Viola township, and upon this property is living a retired life after many years of close connection with agricultural interests of the locality. He is a native son of Lee county, born in 1866, his parents being Modest and Olympia (Chaon) Gehant, the former of whom passed away in 1904 and is buried in West Brooklyn. His wife survives him and makes her home in Brooklyn township, having reached the age of sixty-nine.

August F. Gehant acquired his education in the public schools of Brooklyn township and laid aside his books at the age of fifteen, afterward assisting his father with the work of the farm until he was twenty-three. When he began his independent career he rented land, upon which he resided for three years, after which he bought the farm which he now owns, remaining active in its cultivation for many years. He has erected an excellent residence upon it and a number of farm buildings and, although he has now given up the active work of the fields on account of ill health, he yet gives careful supervision to the operation of the property.



In West Brooklyn, on the 29th of August, 1899, Mr. Gehant was united in marriage to Miss Mary Bresson, a daughter of Delphin and Clarice (Antoine) Bresson, the former of whom passed away in 1900 and is buried in West Brooklyn. His wife survives him and makes her home with the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have become the parents of a daughter, Stella.

Mr. Gehant is a republican in his political beliefs and for the past six years has served as road commissioner, discharging his duties in a capable and able way. He is well and favorably known in his native community, for his life has been honorable, upright and straightforward in all its relations.

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### J. G. HALL, JR.

J. G. Hall, Jr., a well known agriculturist and public official of May township, devotes his attention to the operation of an excellent farm of three hundred and sixty acres on sections 3 and 4 and also ably discharges the duties devolving upon him in the capacity of township clerk. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Lee county, Illinois, and was born on the farm on which he now resides, on the 1st of July, 1877, his parents being J. G. and Mary Hall. The father, one of the pioneer settlers of this county, was busily engaged in general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and is now living in honorable retirement at Amboy, Illinois. He held the position of highway commissioner for sixteen years and has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of the prosperous, popular and representative citizens of the community. During the period of the Civil war he loyally fought as a soldier of the Union army. The Hall family is of English origin.

J. G. Hall, Jr., attended the district school in the acquirement of an education and also pursued a course of study in Dilley's Commercial College at Dixon. After returning home he assisted his father in the work of the farm until twenty-three years of age and then rented the property, comprising three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land on sections 3 and 4, May township, which he has operated continuously and successfully since. He cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, making a



specialty of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. Mr. Hall assisted in making the improvements on the place, which is now lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm of the twentieth century.

On the 3d of October, 1901, at Amboy, Illinois, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Lela Rex, her parents being Charles and Amelia (Clink) Rex, residents of Sublette township, this county. The father, an agriculturist by occupation, took up his abode among the pioneer settlers of that township. Our subject and his wife have two sons, Frank and George, both of whom are attending school.

Mr. Hall gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held several positions of public trust and responsibility. He is the present incumbent in the position of township clerk, which office he has held for two years, has also acted as treasurer for three years and for the past fifteen years has been a director of the board of education, serving in the last named capacity at the present time. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Congregational church, and in the community where his entire life has been spent he has a circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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### M. L. WHITE, M. D.

In no profession has woman demonstrated her fitness more fully than in the practice of medicine. She possesses a characteristic sympathy and an almost intuitive understanding that are of much avail to her in professional work. Dr. White, now practicing successfully in Dixon, was born in Plattsburg, New York, a daughter of of Cary J. and Eunice (Cobb) White. The father was a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit in the Empire state and again after removing to Illinois in 1871, at which time he settled in Paw Paw, Lee county.

Dr. White pursued her more specifically literary education in the public schools. She devoted five years to teaching and then determining to enter upon the practice of medicine matriculated in the Women's Medical College of Chicago, from which she was graduated with the class of 1894. She has since done post-graduate work in that city and is continuously promoting her knowledge through wide reading, research and investigation. She has



DR. M. L. WHITE



gained a liberal practice, not only among many of Dixon's best people, but also throughout the surrounding country, using an automobile in making her visits. Her fellow members of the profession recognize her skill and superior qualifications and the public trust in her is evidenced in the liberal support given her. She has been insurance examiner for several companies and she is a member of the Lee County and Illinois State Medical Societies and of the American Medical Association. Dr. White is very popular in Dixon, possessing attractive personal qualities, which have won her a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of her acquaintances.

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### JOHN GONNERMAN.

John Gonnerman is engaged in general farming on section 18, Reynolds township, occupying the old family homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. The occupation to which he was reared he has made his life work, and it has been by reason of his industry and perseverance that he has attained a creditable measure of success, becoming one of the substantial farmers of the community. He was born in Reynolds township, March 31, 1872, and is a son of Marcus Gonnerman. He remained at home until he attained his majority and during that period attended the public schools, spending the winter months in study, while the summer seasons were devoted to the work of the farm. He began to till the fields almost as soon as he was able to reach the plow handles, and as the years have progressed he has had long and practical experience in farm work. When he reached man's estate he rented a farm and continued to cultivate leased land for a number of years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings until his economy and industry had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase two hundred acres of land in Ogle county. He lived upon that farm for a year and then sold it and removed to the old homestead in Reynolds township on section 18, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land which is naturally rich and arable. He carries on general farming, raising crops best adapted to soil and climate, and the rich prairie land of Illinois responds in good crops.

In 1902 Mr. Gonnerman was united in marriage to Miss Anna H. Cordes, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, a daugh-

ter of John and Grace Cordes, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America at an early day and to them were born ten children. Mr. and Mrs. Gonnerman have become the parents of two children: Florence M., born April 24, 1903, and Cornelius, born July 28, 1905. The parents hold membership in the Lutheran church and are loyal to its teachings, exemplifying their faith in their lives. Mr. Gonnerman has served for seven years as school director and believes that good schools should furnish children the training which will fit them for life's practical and responsible duties. He votes with the republican party but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs.

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### PETER STREIT.

Probably no man is better known throughout northern Illinois as a live-stock breeder and dealer than Peter Streit, who has made a special study of everything relating to this line of work and is now a recognized authority on breeding methods and stock values. He is interested in the scientific aspects of farming and has applied his theories to the utmost advantage in the management of his one hundred and sixty acre farm on section 24, May township. He is a native son of Lee county, born March 31, 1872, his parents being Michael and Margaret (Heser) Streit, natives of Germany. The father came from that country to Illinois in 1864 and settled in Chicago, where he worked in the shops until 1866. He then moved to Lee county and settled on a farm in Sublette township, whereon he continued for two years. At the end of that time he bought the property upon which his son is now residing and thereafter carried forward the work of its cultivation until his death. He brought the place to a high state of cultivation, laying many miles of tiling, fencing and cross fencing his fields and remodeling and repairing the buildings. He passed away February 27, 1913, at the age of seventy-two, having survived his wife since 1900. Both are buried in Sublette cemetery. They were the parents of nine children: George and John, who died in infancy and are buried in the Perkins Grove cemetery; Catherine, the wife of Nicholas Jacoby, a farmer in South Dakota; Mary, who married Peter Koldy, a farmer in Sublette township; Peter, of this review; Mathias, engaged in farming near



New Hampton, Iowa; John, second of the name, a farmer in New Hampton; Nicholas, a resident of the same locality; and Charles, also a farmer in New Hampton.

Peter Streit acquired his education in the old Dolan school-house in May township, attending during the winter months and spending his summers aiding in the operation of his father's farm. He began his independent career in 1899 by renting land and now operates the old homestead. He specializes in raising pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs and Morgan horses and has an enviable reputation as a breeder and fancier, his opinions being recognized as standard authority. He owns some of the largest and heaviest pure-bred swine in northern Illinois and has bred these animals himself, his success being the result of long experience and continued effort. He occupies an equally enviable place among the breeders of Morgan horses and his animals have been used by the United States government for military purposes.

At St. Mary's church, in May township, July 29, 1903, Mr. Streit was united in marriage to Miss Mary Becker, a daughter of John and Louise Becker, the former one of the oldest settlers in this part of Lee county. Mrs. Becker passed away in 1884 and is buried in St. Mary's cemetery. Her husband survives her and makes his home in May township. Mr. and Mrs. Streit became the parents of three children: Alma, who died in 1909 and is buried in St. Mary's cemetery; Floyd, and Edna.

Mr. Streit is a member of the Roman Catholic church and a democrat in his political views. He is a director of the Lee County Fair Association and active in his support of this and other public enterprises. While promoting his personal interests he has contributed in substantial measure to general progress and development and is numbered today among the most representative and valued citizens of Lee county.

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### TONY M. W. REITZ.

Tony M. W. Reitz, a native son of Lee county and one of the progressive and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Ashton township, was born August 23, 1868. His parents, Adam and Barbara (Henkeroth) Reitz, were natives of Germany and they came to America in 1866, locating in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away, the father in 1899 and the mother in 1910. Both

were laid to rest in the Ashton cemetery. Of the seven children born to their union six survive.

Tony M. W. Reitz spent his childhood and youth upon his father's farm, aiding in its operation when not engaged with his books. When he was twenty-three years of age he married and rented a farm upon which he resided for seven years. At the end of that time he bought a farm on section 33, Ashton township and upon this property has since resided. It is provided with a fine residence, barns and outbuildings and all the conveniences necessary to the conduct of a profitable agricultural property. Aside from general farming Mr. Reitz is also extensively interested in stock-raising, paying particular attention to breeding sheep.

Mr. Reitz married Miss Mary A. Gonnerman, a native of Bradford township, this county, and they have become the parents of five children: Clara K. L., Molly L., Katie L., Emma M., and Clarence H. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Reitz gives his political allegiance to the republican party. In business his course has been characterized by the strictest fidelity to principle, and in social relations he displays an un-failing courtesy that has won for him many friends.

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### DAVID GEORGE.

Illinois outside of the city of Chicago owes its prosperity and advancement to the industry, enterprise and progressiveness of the representatives of agricultural life and prominent in this connection was David George of Lee county, who was the owner of extensive farms not only in this state but in Iowa. Pennsylvania numbered him among her native sons, his birth having occurred at East Berlin, Adams county, August 21, 1828. His parents, Jacob and Mary (Knop) George, spent their entire lives in Pennsylvania, where the father followed the occupation of farming. The family numbered four sons: Cornelius, David, Samuel and Henry and several daughters: including Mrs. Lizzie Weaver, Mrs. Anna Cline, Mrs. Molly McClellan and Mrs. Rachel Pentz.

Reared in the Keystone state David George worked at the carpenter's trade in early life and when a young man of twenty-three years came to Illinois, arriving in 1851. For two years thereafter he continued to follow his trade. After his marriage, which oc-



DAVID GEORGE



curred in Pennsylvania in 1855, he returned to Lee county and settled in Franklin Grove, where he lived for a year. He then removed to a farm near Ashton and the remainder of his life was devoted to general agricultural pursuits. He became much attached to the farm and would not return to the town. His last four years were spent upon a farm near Franklin Grove, his industry and energy—his dominant qualities—finding expression in the careful and systematic manner with which he developed and improved his land. He owned six quarter sections near Ashton and a half section near Franklin Grove, making altogether twelve hundred and eighty acres in this county, in addition to which he had extensive property holdings in Iowa. He secured his land entirely through his persistent and intelligently directed efforts and always gave personal supervision to the management and development of his farms.

In Pennsylvania in 1855 Mr. George was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Reed, who was born in York, Pennsylvania, June 7, 1833, and died on the old home farm near Ashton, Illinois, November 23, 1898, when sixty-five years of age. In their family were four children: Martha, who became the wife of Joseph Sanders, and who died in 1888 leaving three children; William, born in 1859, who passed away in 1877; Ira, born August 17, 1864, who died October 13, 1907, leaving a widow and three children; and Mary, who is the wife of Charles Weybright and resides upon the farm formerly owned by her father near Franklin Grove. Mr. Weybright was born at Harrisburg, now Englewood, Montgomery county, Ohio, June 12, 1874, and there resided until twenty-one years of age. He is a graduate of the commercial department of the Mount Morris (Ill.) College. In 1901 he wedded Mary George and removed to Wichita, Kansas, where they remained for eight years, Mr. Weybright being there engaged in the milling business. In June, 1908, they returned to the old home farm near Franklin Grove in order to care for Mr. George with whom they continued until the latter's death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weybright have been born three children: Leslie, Clare and Olive. Mr. Weybright is an enterprising, progressive business man and in the control of his farming interests displays excellent business ability and keen discernment.

The death of Mr. George occurred February 14, 1912, when he had reached the venerable age of more than eighty-three years. He was a member of the Church of the Brethren and made frequent and generous donations to various churches and charities.



giving freely of his means to advance the interests of humanity and promote public progress. He was one of the early and honored pioneer settlers of the community, having come here before the Northwestern railroad was built. When it was constructed the railroad and highway ran side by side along the border of his home place at Ashton, and he aided in securing the highway. He lived to see many notable changes as pioneer conditions gave way before an advancing civilization, and the change in nothing was greater than in his own financial condition which resulted from his business ability and unfaltering enterprise.

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#### A. F. LYMAN.

A. F. Lyman, engaged in the plumbing and heating business at West Brooklyn, is winning success by reason of his thorough knowledge of the trades in which he embarked on starting out in life on his own account. A native of Lee county, he was born at Amboy, January 21, 1881, and is a son of Levi H. and Frances (Bruce) Lyman. The father was a locomotive engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad and volunteered for service in the Civil war. He died in 1906, at the age of fifty-nine years, and lies buried in the Prairie Repose cemetery at Amboy. His wife now makes her home in Lee Center.

A. F. Lyman was educated in the schools of Binghampton and the Amboy high school, but did not complete his course by graduation. He put aside his text-books when eighteen years of age, wishing to enter business life, and, going to Chicago, he there learned the trade of plumbing and heating. He applied himself diligently to the mastery of the work and became quite expert in that line. He first located at Paw Paw, where he carried on business for three years, but in 1906 sold out there and afterward worked as a plumber at Rochelle for two years. He then came to West Brooklyn, where in April, 1908, he opened his present establishment, which has since brought him a gratifying degree of success. He is now well prepared to do difficult work along the line of his trade and a liberal patronage is accorded him. He possesses much natural mechanical skill and ingenuity, which combined with his efficiency have prepared him for the performance of any task that devolves upon him in this connection.

In Dixon, Illinois, on the 7th of May, 1904, Mr. Lyman was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Fisher, a daughter of Jacob and Elma (White) Fisher, the former a pioneer farmer of Willow Creek township, while both are now residing in Searboro, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman have two children: Bruce, attending school; and Floyd, who is not yet of school age.

Mr. Lyman votes with the republican party, and reading keeps him in touch with the vital questions and issues of the day. He holds membership with the Modern Woodmen camp. He and his wife are worthy young people, enjoying the warm regard of many friends, and their own home is a hospitable one. Realizing at the outset of his career that there is no royal road to wealth, Mr. Lyman has always depended upon the substantial qualities of industry and perseverance for the attainment of success.

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### AUGUST C. GRIESE.

August C. Griese, one of the prosperous and representative citizens of Bradford township, owning and operating seventy-five acres of land on section 1, was born in this township, March 3, 1875. He is a son of Civiacus and Anna K. (Becker) Griese, natives of Germany who came to America in the '60s, settling in Lee county. The father died in 1888 and is survived by his wife, who makes her home in Franklin Grove. She has been twice married and previous to her union with the father of the subject of this review was Mrs. Webber.

August C. Griese was reared in Bradford township and acquired his education in the public schools of this locality. He married in 1897 and in the same year purchased seventy-five acres of land on section 1, Bradford township. He still makes his home upon this property and has developed and improved it along practical lines. He has valuable farming and stock-raising interests here, and he owns also three hundred and twenty acres of improved land in Cass county, near Fargo, North Dakota.

Mr. Griese married Miss Elizabeth Zimpel, who was born in Germany, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Oesterheld) Zimpel, also natives of the fatherland. The parents came to America in 1882 and located in Lee county, Illinois, where both now reside. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Griese have two children: Vera B., who was

born February 27, 1899, and Robert J. H., born May 22, 1905. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Griesse is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America at Ashton. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party, being now in the fifteenth term of his able service as school director. He has spent his entire life in Bradford township and his industry, enterprise and ability have gained him high standing in the community, where he is acknowledged to be a substantial and representative citizen.

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### MARCUS VENTLER.

Marcus Ventler owns and occupies an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 17, Reynolds township, and section 8, Bradford township, Lee county. This by no means comprises the extent of his realty holdings, however, for he has other valuable farm land in this state and in South Dakota. Lee county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Bradford township, December 13, 1862, his parents being Andrew and Katherine E. Ventler, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America in the early '50s and crossed the continent to Lee county, Illinois, where they established their home upon a farm, the father devoting his remaining days to general agricultural pursuits here. He died in this county, but the mother is still living and makes her home in Ashton. In their family were nine children, six of whom survive.

Marcus Ventler spent his youthful days under the parental roof, his time being divided between the acquirement of an education and work in the fields. He supplemented his public-school training by study in college, and he is today a well informed man, keeping in touch with the world's progress along many lines. After he had attained his majority he started out in business life on his own account, renting a farm for six years. He next purchased the land upon which he now resides, having three hundred and twenty acres on section 17, Reynolds township, and section 8, Bradford township. He has made excellent improvements upon this property, which is one of the fine farms of the county, equipped with all modern accessories and conveniences. In addition to this Mr. Ventler owns one hundred and eighty acres in Ogle county, Illinois, and a half section of land in South Dakota.

In 1887 Mr. Ventler was united in marriage to Miss Martha Albrecht, a native of Bradford township, this county, and they became the parents of seven children: Clara K., who was born December 16, 1887, and is the wife of Harry Schafer; Edward A., born January 9, 1890; Mollie K., born May 28, 1892; Oliver A., born August 22, 1895; George, who was born November 28, 1897, and who died in December of the same year; Amanda, born July 16, 1901; and Florence K., born June 13, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Ventler are members of the Lutheran church. They are well known in the community where they reside and have an extensive circle of warm friends. In his political views Mr. Ventler is a republican and is now serving as township assessor and has been school director. He is interested in everything that pertains to the advancement and improvement of his section of the state and especially in progress along agricultural lines. He is a self-made man, deserving much credit for what he has accomplished, for since attaining his majority he has made substantial progress and is one of the leading farmers of his district.

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### HARVEY W. HEIBENTHAL.

Harvey W. Heibenthal, engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon two hundred and forty acres of land on section 23, Bradford township, was born upon this property March 2, 1886. He is a son of William and Christina (Kersten) Heibenthal, natives of Lee county and residents of Ashton. In their family were seven children, of whom five are still living, as follows: Harvey W., of this review; Della, the wife of Fred Tadd; and Alta, Ada and Clarence, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Heibenthal lost two daughters, Hattie and Clara.

Harvey W. Heibenthal grew up on his father's farm in Bradford township and was reared to farm life, becoming early familiar with the best and most practical agricultural methods. He married in 1911 and afterward rented the homestead, whereon he has since resided. This comprises two hundred and forty acres of excellent land on section 23, Bradford township, and Mr. Heibenthal has carried forward the work of its development and improvement along progressive and modern lines, making it increase in value and productiveness year by year. He makes a



specialty of raising and feeding cattle and has extensive interests along this line.

In 1911 Mr. Heibenthal married Miss Rose E. Henert, a daughter of George and Anna K. (Griese) Henert, natives of Germany. The parents came to America at an early date and lived for many years in Lee county, where the father passed away in 1901. Mr. Heibenthal is a republican in his political beliefs and is connected fraternally with Lodge No. 977, I. O. O. F., and the Rebekahs. His wife is also a member of the latter organization. Both are well known in Bradford township, and they have an extensive circle of friends within the borders of Lee county.

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### WILLIAM SANDROCK.

William Sandrock is numbered among the citizens of Lee county who owe their success entirely to their perseverance, determination and industry. He started out in life empty-handed, but he recognized the fact that success is due to the close application and diligence of the individual and in employing these qualities he has worked his way steadily upward. He now owns a fine farm on section 29, Reynolds township, and it was upon this farm that he was born February 8, 1871. He is a son of George and Martha E. (Thiele) Sandrock, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1848 and cast in their lot with the early settlers of Lee county, contributing to the development and progress of their locality as the years passed on. They had a family of five children and with the exception of Charles, all are yet living.

The boyhood of William Sandrock was spent upon the farm which is now his home and which is endeared to him through the associations of youth and of manhood. At the usual age he entered the public schools and mastered the branches of learning therein taught. He was twenty-two years of age when, in 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna C. Kersten, who was born in Ashton township, Lee county, and is a daughter of Hartman and Anna E. Kersten, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to America in early life. They too made Lee county their destination and the father continued his residence here until his demise. He is survived by his wife, who is living in Ashton.





WILLIAM SANDROCK



Following his marriage William Sandrock rented the old homestead for two years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings and was thus enabled to purchase the old home property comprising two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land on section 29, Reynolds township. His labors have since wrought many changes in the appearance of the place. He has erected a fine and commodious residence, has built barns and sheds for the shelter of grain and stock and has added all the modern equipments and improved machinery which so greatly facilitate farm work. The actual work of the fields has been given over to a tenant and Mr. Sandrock lives practically retired. He also owns six hundred and forty acres of land in Canada, and the success which has crowned his efforts is the merited reward of his perseverance of purpose and his unfaltering labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sandrock have been born three children: Lydia M., who was born October 6, 1895; Joy William, born January 13, 1906; and Ray William, born August 30, 1908. The parents are members of the Evangelical Association, and Mr. Sandrock is president of the board of trustees and superintendent of the Sunday school. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but he has never sought nor held political office. He served, however, for four terms as school director, and he believes in giving to children the opportunity for acquiring a good education which will serve as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. A lifelong resident of this county, residing always on the farm which is yet his home, he is well known in this section of the state and that his life has been a commendable one is indicated by the warm regard in which he is uniformly held.

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### JOHN P. FASSIG.

The success which came to John P. Fassig in former years now enables him to live retired. He took up his abode in West Brooklyn in the spring of 1913, at which time he erected his present pleasant and commodious residence and the barns and sheds upon his place. Prior to that time he had carried on general agricultural pursuits. A native of Lee county, he was born on section 17, Brooklyn township, March 23, 1860, his parents being Phillip and Charlotte (Erbes) Fassig, the former being born June 1, 1822, and the latter August 24, 1825. The father came to

the new world from Germany in 1854 and settled on a farm near Lamoille, Bureau county, where he remained until 1859. He then purchased a tract of land of eighty acres in Brooklyn township and by degrees converted it into fertile fields, from which he gathered golden harvests. He practiced strict economy as well as industry and was thus able from time to time to add to his holdings until he had four hundred acres, bringing the entire farm to a high state of cultivation. Upon that place he reared his family of eight children, of whom six are yet living and are a credit to the family name. Of the two who passed away, Tina died at the age of seventeen years and was buried in the Mendota cemetery, while Phillip died in February, 1912, at the age of fifty-six years, and was buried in the Brooklyn Union cemetery. The living members of the family are besides our subject: William, who followed the carpenter's trade in Mendota; Catherine, the wife of William Ulsh, of Compton, Illinois; Mary, the wife of John Yost, of Mendota; Charlotte, the wife of Edward Ulsh; and Louise, the wife of Conrad Yost, of Mendota. The parents have both been called to the home beyond, the father dying January 5, 1904, and the mother October 4, 1897.

John P. Fassig was a pupil in the public schools of West Brooklyn until sixteen years of age, although he attended only through the winter months, while the summer seasons were devoted to farm work. After putting aside his text-books his entire time was given to the labors of the fields on the old homestead until he reached the age of twenty-three years. Desirous that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, he then rented a farm, which he operated for four years, and the money that he saved during that period enabled him to purchase eighty acres of his father's farm. By degrees he increased this to three hundred and sixty acres and carried on general agricultural pursuits. His methods were practical, progressive and resultant. He placed substantial improvements upon his land, divided it into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and used modern farm machinery to till the soil and harvest the crops. At length his financial returns had made him the possessor of a handsome competence and, content with this, he put aside further business cares and removed to West Brooklyn, erecting his present home in the spring of 1913. Here he is pleasantly situated and is surrounded with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

On the 4th of January, 1885, in Brooklyn township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fassig and Miss Sophie Florscheutz,

a daughter of George and Margaret Florscheutz. The father was a German by birth and on coming to this country took up farming, but both he and his wife are now deceased. They were connected with the German Lutheran church and were recognized as people of sterling worth in their community. Mr. and Mrs. Fassig had five children: Charles, who passed away in March, 1910, at the age of twenty-three years; Carrie, who is at home; George, a farmer residing on his father's land, which is situated about a mile south of West Brooklyn; Tina, at home; and Ella, who is attending school. Mr. Fassig votes with the democratic party, and he and his wife belong to the German Lutheran church. High principles guide them in life's relations and they have gained many warm friends, who esteem them highly for their genuine worth of character. Mr. Fassig started out in life empty-handed but was ambitious and willing to work, and his industry has brought him to the position of affluence which he now occupies.

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### GEORGE WAGNER.

George Wagner, a successful and highly respected farmer, prominent in the affairs of Bradford township, was born here October 1, 1868, a son of Jacob Wagner. He acquired his education in the public schools of Bradford township and after completing his studies was employed in the work of the farm. Following his marriage he engaged in farming upon rented land for nineteen years and at the end of that time bought a farm, whereon he now resides. He owns one hundred and sixty-five acres of land on section 12, Bradford township, and has added to the buildings and equipment of this property, which, through his able management, he has made one of the finest and most productive farms in this locality.

Mr. Wagner married Miss Anna C. Sandrock, a native of Lee county and a daughter of George and Martha E. (Theil) Sandrock, natives of Germany. The parents came to America at an early date and located in Lee county, Illinois, where both passed away. Of the six children born to their union four are living. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have become the parents of a son: Arthur J., born June 28, 1892. The parents are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Wagner gives his political allegiance to the republican party. For six years he served as school director of his



district and discharged his duties in a capable and progressive manner. He is a man of high social, official and business standing and is recognized as one of the most honorable and valued citizens of the community.

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### HENRY SEMMLER.

There is a considerable German element in the citizenship of Lee county, and it has constituted a force in the material development and progress of this section of the state, for the sons of the fatherland brought with them to the new world the qualities of determination and enterprise, which have been factors in the attainment of success on this side the Atlantic just as they had been in the old world. Born in Germany on the 6th of June, 1866, Henry Semmler is a son of August and Anna Martha Semmler, who were likewise natives of the fatherland. The mother died in that country, but August Semmler is still living. He remains, however, in his native land. In their family were six children, four of whom survive.

Henry Semmler remained at home until nineteen years of age and during that time acquired his education in the schools of his native country. He has also learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience. Ambitious to enjoy better opportunities than he believed he could secure in Germany, he came to America in 1886 and settled in Lee county, Illinois. Here he worked on a farm as a hired hand for three years, but he was not content to continue in such a position. He believed that he was capable of doing something better, and just as soon as he had saved a sufficient sum from his earnings he rented land and began farming on his own account. Seven years were spent in that way, during which period he saved a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm. He became the owner of the one hundred and sixty acre tract upon which he now resides on section 18, Reynolds township. It was partially improved when it came into his possession, and he has since added various improvements and wrought a change in the appearance of the place through his careful manner of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He has always made a specialty of feeding sheep, and this has constituted a successful feature in his business. He has never been afraid of

hard work, and it is this which has brought him the success which has crowned his labors.

Mr. Semmler is a republican in his political views. He has never sought nor desired office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He has acted as school director, believing firmly in the cause of public education and the employment of competent teachers.

In 1890 Mr. Semmler was united in marriage to Miss Catherine E. Gonnerman, who was born in 1863 and is a daughter of Marcus and Christine E. (Ferneau) Gonnerman, both of whom were natives of Germany and in 1860 came to America. The mother died here in January, 1905, but the father is still living, making his home in Franklin Grove. They had a family of ten children, of whom two have passed away. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Semmler have been born four children: Oswin Marcus, who was born May 22, 1891; Annette L., born December 5, 1893; Marie E., December 12, 1898; and Gertrude E., January 19, 1902. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and are well known in the community in which they live, enjoying the warm regard of their many friends.

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#### ANDREW LITTLE.

Andrew Little, a worthy native son and representative agriculturist of Lee county, is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty-three acres on section 34, Viola township. His birth occurred in that township in November, 1850, his parents being Andrew and Charity (Ross) Little, who are deceased and lie buried in the old Burg cemetery. The father passed away on the 25th of March, 1857, while the mother's demise occurred on the 20th of November, 1850. They were among the esteemed pioneer residents of the county and were sincerely mourned by an extensive circle of friends.

Andrew Little, Jr., attended the schools of this county until seventeen years of age and subsequently started out as an agriculturist on his own account, beginning the operation of the farm which he had inherited from his parents. As his financial resources increased, owing to his capable management and untiring industry, he extended the boundaries of his place by purchasing adjoining property, and it now embraces one hundred and sixty-

three acres of rich and productive land on section 34, Viola township. As the years have gone by he has devoted his time and energies to mixed farming with excellent success and has long been numbered among the substantial and progressive citizens of his native county. He erected the residence and other buildings which adorn his property and which stand as monuments to his enterprise, thrift and energy.

In December, 1871, in Lee county, Mr. Little was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Christiance, her parents being Abram and Caroline (Barhydt) Christiance. Her family was the third to settle in Brooklyn township, Abram Christiance coming to this county from New York in 1835. He passed away in 1894, while his wife was called to her final rest in November, 1871. Their remains are interred in Lee county. Mr. and Mrs. Little have one child, Edith L., who is the wife of Burton Hartley, a farmer, of Viola township.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Little has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing firmly in its principles. He is a Master Mason and a worthy exemplar of the fraternity. Both he and his wife have spent their entire lives in Lee county and are well known and highly esteemed within its borders.

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### WILLIAM HEINZEROTH.

William Heinzeroth is well known as a representative and highly respected farmer of Lee county, his home being in Reynolds township, but business is only one phase of his activity, for he takes a most helpful interest in church and Sunday-school work and has contributed largely to the agricultural development of the community. He was born in this county October 2, 1859, and is a son of Michael and Anna S. (Schuchhard) Heinzeroth, both of whom were natives of Germany but came to America in 1856 and settled in Lee county. Here they remained until called to their final rest. They were numbered among the pioneer citizens and lived to witness remarkable changes as the years passed on and the work of improvement and development was carried forward. In their family were eight children: Anna G., now deceased; William, of this review; John M., who is living in La Salle county, Illinois; Henry, whose home is in Bradford township; Justus, a



WILLIAM HEINZEROTH





resident of Lee county; George, whose home is in North Dakota; Mary, who has passed away; and Anna, the wife of R. Moore, of Dixon.

William Heinzeroth remained at home with his parents until twenty-three years of age and then married Miss Catherine Wagner, whose family is mentioned in connection with the sketch of William A. Ewald on another page of this volume. Following his marriage Mr. Heinzeroth began renting land in Reynolds township, cultivating a farm in this fashion for some years, but he was ambitious to own land and carefully saved his earnings until in 1901 he was able to purchase one hundred and sixty acres situated on section 30, Reynolds township. This he has partially improved, his methods adding much to its attractive appearance. The soil is naturally rich and productive and responds readily to the care and labor bestowed upon it. The place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and the latest improved machinery facilitates the work of cultivating and caring for the crops. Neatness and thrift characterize the development of the farm, and capable management has been the foundation of his growing success.

To Mr. Heinzeroth by his first marriage there were born five children: Emma E., now the wife of Henry Wagner; George M., living in Ogle county, Illinois; Benjamin H., of Lee county; Justus F., at home; and Jacob M., who is also with his father. The wife and mother passed away February 22, 1904, and was laid to rest in the Reynolds cemetery. Five years passed and in 1909 Mr. Heinzeroth was again married, his second union being with Miss Louise E. Muller, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, in 1867, and is a daughter of John B. and Barbara (Koerner) Muller, both of whom were natives of Germany. Making arrangements to cross the Atlantic, they came to America on the 12th of April, 1857, and then traveled into the interior of the country, settling first in Peoria county, Illinois. Subsequently they established their home in Woodford county, Illinois. At the time of the Civil war the father responded to the country's call for troops and for three years was at the front, giving valiant aid to the Union cause, during which time he participated in a number of hotly contested engagements. Both he and his wife are now deceased. One of their six children passed away in infancy.

Politically Mr. Heinzeroth is a republican. He served as pathmaster for five years and as school director for six years and has done much in various ways to further the interests of the community in which he lives. Fraternally he is connected with Ashton

Camp, No. 48, M. W. A., and aside from business is most active in church work. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Association of North America, Mr. Heinzeroth having united therewith when but fourteen years of age. He is now active as secretary of the church, as assistant superintendent of the Sunday school and also as a member of the board of trustees. No good work done in the name of charity or religion seeks his aid in vain and his efforts have been productive of splendid results, making him one of the valued citizens of the community, his influence being far-reaching and beneficial.

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### SHERMAN L. SHAW.

Sherman L. Shaw, residing at Lee Center, is the owner of a farming property of six hundred and sixty acres in Lee, his native county. His birth occurred in Bradford township, October 5, 1864, his parents being James M. and M. Rebecca (Linn) Shaw. He comes of Scotch ancestry on the paternal side, while the Linns are of Irish lineage, and a representative of the name served in the patriot army during the Revolutionary war. His grandfather, Sherman Shaw, arrived in this county in 1836 and was one of the three first settlers in this part of the county. Only four years before had the Black Hawk war occurred and there were yet many evidences of Indian occupancy in all this section of the country. The forest stood in its primeval strength and the land was unclaimed and uncultivated, but Sherman Shaw resolutely undertook the task of preparing the fields for cultivation and in time was reaping bounteous harvests as a reward of his persistent and practical effort. He died in the year 1891 and his wife passed away in 1892, at the ages of eighty and seventy-five years respectively. They were laid to rest in the Woodside cemetery. The maternal grandparents were George Russell and Abigail (Stinson) Linn, natives of Maine, who came to Lee county in 1840. During the period of the Civil war James M. Shaw volunteered for active service, enlisting as a member of Company A, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, being in the first regiment mustered in for three years. He died in 1876, at the age of thirty-eight years.

Sherman L. Shaw acquired his education in Lee Center and Dixon College, completing his studies when twenty years of age. He afterward remained at home upon the farm for a time and

later rented land. On his grandfather's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the property and has since managed his farm, which is devoted to the raising of crops best adapted to soil and climate. He likewise engages to a considerable extent in stock-raising, making a specialty of hogs. The farm is improved with all modern equipments and accessories, and in all of his business career Mr. Shaw has been actuated by a spirit of enterprise, progress and improvement.

Mr. Shaw has been married twice. On December 22, 1892, at Amboy, he wedded Miss Anna K. Mynard, a daughter of Adam S. and Alvira Mynard. Mrs. Shaw died, leaving two children, Gertrude K. and Russell M., the former now a student in the Francis Shimer School at Mount Carroll, Illinois. On the 21st of June, 1905, Mr. Shaw was again married in Amboy, his second union being with Miss Grace E. Bender, a daughter of Rev. C. and Clarissa Bender. They have two children, Eleanor and Sherman L.

Politically Mr. Shaw is a republican, and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He has served as town clerk and as member and chairman of the board of supervisors and is now president of the board of education. He is much interested in all that pertains to the general welfare and has cooperated in many movements which have worked for the upbuilding and development of the community. From early life he has been identified with agricultural interests and the unfaltering industry and sound judgment which he has displayed in the management of his farm have gained him place among the most substantial agriculturists of the county.

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### JOHN H. GRIESE, JR.

A well improved farm of one hundred acres on section 1, Bradford township, is the property of John H. Griese, Jr., and by industry and enterprise in the management of this property he has surrounded himself with a gratifying degree of prosperity. He was born in Bradford township, January 20, 1877, and is a son of Civiacus and Anna K. (Becker) Griese, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in the early '60s and settled in Lee county, where the father passed away in 1888. His wife survives him and makes her home in Franklin Grove, this county, having

reached the age of seventy-three years. Previous to her marriage with the father of the subject of this review she was Mrs. Webber. By her second marriage she had two sons, August and John H., of this review.

John H. Griese was reared at home and remained upon the farm until he was twenty-one years of age. He then married and acquired one hundred acres of land on section 1, Bradford township. Upon this property he has since resided and he has improved it until it is one of the finest farms in the township. It is provided with a comfortable residence, substantial barns and modern machinery and the fields are under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Griese engages in general farming and stock-raising and is accounted one of the most industrious and substantial farmers in the community.

On the 26th of October, 1904, Mr. Griese married Miss Anna Zwack, who was born in Chicago, May 16, 1880, a daughter of Joseph and Anna Zwack, both of whom have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Griese have become the parents of a daughter, Helen K., who was born April 10, 1908. Mr. Griese gives his political allegiance to the republican party and takes an intelligent interest in community affairs, although he is not active as an office seeker. He is not only industrious and enterprising, but also a man of high moral character and he is esteemed throughout the township as a farmer and as a business man.

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#### WILLIAM A. EWALD.

William A. Ewald is the owner of the Willow Corner farm of one hundred and fifty-nine acres on section 29, Reynolds township. In addition he has other property in this county and has come to be ranked among the substantial farmers of his part of the state. Germany is his native land, and the date of his birth was November 23, 1866. He is a son of Henry and Anna Martha (Beck) Ewald. Both were natives of Germany, the former born August 5, 1837. They remained residents of the fatherland until 1873, when they bade adieu to friends and native country and sailed for the United States, their destination being Whiterock, Ogle county, Illinois. Subsequently they came to Lee county, taking up their abode in Reynolds township, where Henry Ewald





WILLIAM A. EWALD AND FAMILY





bought a farm on section 27. With characteristic energy he began its development and continued its cultivation until his life's labors were ended in death on the 10th of March, 1913, when he was in his seventy-sixth year. His widow survives and resides on the old homestead with her son John. By her marriage she became the mother of the following children: Charles; William A.; Mrs. William Christian; C. M.; John, and Henry. The daughter is a resident of Dysart, Iowa, but the sons all live in Reynolds township, this county. There are thirteen grandchildren.

William A. Ewald was a little lad of seven years when his parents crossed the Atlantic with their family and came to Illinois. He has since lived in this state and the public-school system of Illinois afforded him his educational privileges. His training at farm labor was received under his father's direction, for he remained at home until twenty-seven years of age. He then started out in life on his own account, by renting eighty acres of his father's land. This he cultivated for two years and in the success which attended his efforts proved his capability and resourcefulness. At the end of that time he was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Wagner, who was born in Reynolds township, January 3, 1874, and is a daughter of Martin and Martha (Henert) Wagner, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to the new world, establishing their home in Bradford township, Lee county, Illinois.

Following his marriage Mr. Ewald rented land belonging to his wife's uncle, Henry Henert, in Reynolds township and lived upon that place for six years. In 1902 he purchased the farm on section 29, Reynolds township, now known as the Willow Corner farm and comprising one hundred and fifty-nine acres of rich and productive land, from which he annually gathers good harvests. He has since added to his possessions and is now the owner of another excellent farm of two hundred acres on sections 9 and 10, Viola township. Here he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock and annually sells a large number, this branch of his business proving a profitable one. Beginning at the early age of sixteen and continuing until five years ago our subject, with his brother, Charles, operated a threshing, corn-shelling and clover-hulling outfit. At first they used the old horse-power machinery, but later they owned two steam outfits. He neglects no branch of his farm work, and his care and supervision have made his valuable properties.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewald have become parents of two children: Adrian J., who was born June 29, 1902, and died in 1903, and Ilia M., born June 24, 1905. The parents attend the Evangelical church. Mr. Ewald votes with the republican party, but has no aspiration for public office. He finds that his business affairs make ample claim upon his time and energies, and he has two excellent farms in the county, the neat and thrifty appearance of which indicate his careful supervision and practical, progressive methods.

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### HENRY A. BERNARDIN.

Henry A. Bernardin, a dealer in lumber, lime, cement, stone, etc., at West Brooklyn, was born at Portsmouth, Ohio, September 1, 1868, and comes of French ancestry. His grandparents, Peter and Mary (Boffy) Bernardin, were natives of France and with a family of seven children crossed the Atlantic, settling in Scioto county, Ohio. A subsequent removal made them residents of Lee county and their remains now lie interred in the family lot in the West Brooklyn cemetery. Joseph C. Bernardin, father of Henry A. Bernardin, was born in France, came to America in 1855 and remained a resident of the state of Ohio until 1870, when he removed to Lee county, Illinois, taking up his abode upon a farm in Viola township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for a number of years. At length he retired from farm life and removed to Amboy in 1898, there passing away October 13, 1911, when he was seventy-two years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Palmère Ranger, was also a native of France and died in the year 1874, at the age of thirty years. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Bernardin were the parents of two sons and a daughter, the brother of our subject being Charles J. Bernardin, who occupies a farm in Viola township, and the sister is Mrs. John Arnold, of the same township.

Henry A. Bernardin was only two years of age when his parents left Ohio and brought their family to Lee county. He became a pupil in the country schools near the old home but after reaching the age of fifteen years was able to attend only through the winter months, the summer seasons being devoted to farm work. He continued to assist in the development of the home farm until twenty-four years of age, when he purchased a tract of land in

Viola township and began its further development. After two years he sold that property and bought another farm of one hundred and twenty acres two and one-half miles from West Brooklyn. This was in the year 1894. He continued upon that place until 1900, when he removed to West Brooklyn and established a lumber and coal business which he now conducts. In the year 1907 he extended the scope of his activities by adding a stock of furniture. In 1908 he purchased the Fox & Hamilton building at Compton and opened a furniture and house-furnishing business which is in charge of Mrs. Bernardin. In his yards at West Brooklyn he carries an extensive stock of lumber, doors, sash, blinds, cedar posts and poles, coal, lime, cement and stone. He is an active factor in commercial circles here and, moreover, he has done much for the upbuilding of the town. In addition to the conduct of his lumber and coal yard and his furniture store he has erected three different residences.

It was on starting out in life independently that Mr. Bernardin was married in Bradford township, February 7, 1893, to Miss Mary A. Mehlhausen, a native of Germany, daughter of August and Margaret Mehlhausen, who emigrated to America and became farming people of this county and are now residents of West Brooklyn. Mrs. Bernardin has been of great assistance to her husband and shows excellent business ability in the management of the store at Compton. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bernardin have been born three children: Palmère S., Kathryn T. and Joseph A., all residing at home.

Mr. Bernardin is a democrat in his political views. He has served as justice of the peace and has been judge of election for six years. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, his membership being in the Amboy Lodge. He has made a most creditable record since he turned from agricultural to commercial pursuits, proving himself to be a wide-awake business man of indefatigable energy and of most creditable persistency of purpose.

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#### JACOB J. WAGNER, JR.

Jacob J. Wagner, Jr., is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Ashton township, and in the cultivation of this property has gained a success which places him among the representative and able agriculturists of the local-

ity. He was born in Bradford township, this county, November 11, 1872, and was reared at home, acquiring a public-school education. He has devoted his entire active life to farming, and his success in this field is the natural result of his ability and experience. When he was twenty-one he rented a farm in Bradford township and developed this property for fifteen years thereafter with constantly increasing success. At the end of that time he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 35, Ashton township, and upon this property he has since resided. He has made excellent improvements upon it, providing the place with a modern house, a barn and other outbuildings. It now presents an attractive appearance and gives every evidence of the care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it.

In 1894 Mr. Wagner was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth C. Harek, a native of Bradford township, born September 11, 1871. She is a daughter of William and Catherine (Dill) Harek, natives of Germany. The parents came to America at an early date and located in Bradford township, where the mother died July 4, 1910. Her husband survives her and makes his home in Ashton. To their union were born four children: Elizabeth C., wife of the subject of this review; Anna, who married William Petre, of Ashton; Mary, the wife of John Nass, Jr., of Bradford township; and Fred. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner have become the parents of a son, Ervin W., born October 5, 1895. He is now attending a business college at Dixon, Illinois. The parents are members of the United Evangelical church, and Mr. Wagner gives his political allegiance to the republican party. For several years he has served as school director and is a progressive and public-spirited citizen, taking an active interest in community affairs. Ashton township numbers him among her most progressive and successful agriculturists, and he is widely and favorably known in this locality.

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### FRANK EVERETT STEVENS.

Frank Everett Stevens, who has spent nearly his entire life in Dixon, was for a number of years actively engaged in the practice of law, and has gained success and recognition in journalistic circles as editor of the *Weekly Citizen*, which he established in 1910. His birth occurred in Dixon, Illinois, on the 5th of Janu-



ary, 1856, his parents being John and Marie Sophie (La Porte) Stevens. It was in 1846 that the father came from Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, to Dixon, taking up his abode among the early residents of this place. He was an attorney by profession and served as county superintendent of schools during the years 1853 and 1854. At the time of the civil war he raised Company H of the Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was made judge advocate of the army and also held the rank of major. On Sunday morning, April 6, 1862, he was killed at the battle of Shiloh.

Frank E. Stevens obtained his education in the high school of Dixon and after preparing for the practice of law was admitted to the bar in 1877. For a number of years he ably discharged the duties devolving upon him in the capacity of deputy circuit clerk. It was in 1910 that he became identified with journalistic interests as editor of the Weekly Citizen, which he has since published, and which enjoys an excellent subscription and advertising patronage, being an up-to-date news sheet in every respect. He is a member of the State and Chicago Historical Societies and also belongs to the Caxton Club of Chicago. In the community where his life has been spent he is well known as a representative, esteemed and influential citizen.

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### U. GRANT DYSART.

U. Grant Dysart, a representative and successful agriculturist of Viola township, owns a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32 and is also filling the office of township supervisor at the present time. His birth occurred in Lee county, Illinois, on the 14th of September, 1865, his parents being Samuel and Jennie (Henderson) Dysart, both of whom are deceased and lie buried at Franklin Grove, Illinois. The father passed away on the 8th of April, 1911, and the mother August 8, 1909.

U. Grant Dysart acquired his education at Fulton, Whiteside county, Illinois, attending school until twenty-two years of age. Subsequently he took up his abode on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Viola township, which he has operated continuously and successfully since. He engages in mixed farming and keeps about twelve horses, twenty cattle and twenty-eight hogs. The residence and other buildings which adorn the prop-

erty were erected by him and greatly enhance its value. His well tilled fields yield bounteous crops in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon them and bring him a gratifying annual income.

In Viola township, on section 32, Mr. Dysart was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Nelles, the ceremony taking place on the 3d of December, 1890. Mrs. Dysart was born February 21, 1869, her parents being John and Caroline (Sparling) Nelles, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in Malugian Grove, Illinois. Her mother passed away January 24, 1913, her father September 8, 1909. Our subject and his wife have two children, namely: Maude H., born March 9, 1892, who gave her hand in marriage to Harry Christiance, a mail carrier of West Brooklyn; and Jennie C., born November 22, 1896, who is at home.

Mr. Dysart is a progressive in his political views and now acts as township supervisor, having held the office for about four years. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to the lodge at Compton, in which he serves as master. His life has been upright and honorable in all respects, and he has long been numbered among the substantial and esteemed citizens of his native county.

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### WALTER FREDERICK AYDELOTTE, N. D.

Walter Frederick Aydelotte, N. D., neurologist and health instructor at Dixon, was born in Jersey county, Illinois, November 26, 1878, a son of Isaac K. and Mary (Norris) Aydelotte, the former a native of Jersey county and the latter of Greene county, Illinois. The paternal grandfather was a native of Ohio, but came to Illinois in pioneer times, arriving about 1840. Isaac K. Aydelotte was a farmer and business man active in connection with both agricultural and mercantile pursuits.

Dr. Aydelotte, whose name introduces this record, acquired a public-school education in Kansas, Nebraska, and Montgomery county, Illinois, attending school in the three states. He was also a student in Dixon college where he studied law and subsequently took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for three years in Lee and Sangamon counties. This, however, was merely an initial step toward professional labor. He became a student in the McCormick Neurological college, now the McCor-



DR. WALTER F. AYDELOTTE



mick Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated as a doctor of neurology in 1907. He did some optical work before graduation and since completing his course at McCormick he has taken post-graduate work, for it is his desire to attain the highest degree of efficiency possible. In 1907 he opened an office in Dixon, where he has since engaged in practice, confining his attention strictly to neurology. This is an age of specialization and the practitioner who attains the highest measure of success is he who concentrates his efforts along certain lines. Recognizing this fact Dr. Aydelotte chose neurology as a school of healing which he believed would prove interesting to him and one in which he hoped to prove especially helpful to his fellowmen. He was duly licensed by the state board of health upon examination January 15, 1907, and he is now giving his life largely to original research into great forces and principles that make for human health and happiness. His broad study, his practice and his research are developing a line of thought and teaching that have already proved of great benefit to mankind and will be of still further service as the years go by.

While the commercial features of his work are not neglected, he is primarily a delver after truth, seeking to find the solution for the mysteries of nature, that the work of man shall be more in accord with nature's great laws. He is, in other words, a student philosopher and in endeavoring to heal earthly ills, also makes attempt to put his patients in tune with the great forces of life which control as well the spiritual nature.

Dr. Aydelotte was married October 31, 1905 to Nannie Bertha Byrd, a daughter of Jacob and Katherine Byrd, prominent pioneer settlers of Willow Creek township. Both Dr. Aydelotte and his wife are highly esteemed in the city and have many warm friends.

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### THOMAS E. HILLESON.

Thomas E. Hilleson, renting two hundred and forty acres of the H. A. Hilleson estate, which comprises five hundred and sixty acres located on section 10, Willow Creek township, is a native of Lee county, born on the old Hilleson farm. His parents were H. A. and Anna (Nelson) Hilleson, the former a representative of a well known pioneer family of Lee county and a native of this locality. The grandfather settled here in 1835 and accumulated



large landed holdings, his son inheriting at his death three hundred and twenty acres, which he increased to the five hundred and sixty acres which now comprise the Hilleson estate.

Thomas E. Hilleson acquired his education in the public schools of Lee county and in the Lutheran College at Decorah, Iowa. He afterward attended the University of Illinois for two years and at the end of that time returned home. He rents two hundred and forty acres of the estate and has made excellent improvements upon his property, erecting a modern residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He gives his attention to mixed farming and has been very successful, for he follows always the most practical and progressive methods and is careful in the management of his business interests.

At Goldfield, Iowa, October 27, 1912, Mr. Hilleson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Oppedahl, a daughter of Swen and Anna Oppedahl, of Goldfield, Iowa, leading citizens of that community. Mr. Hilleson is a member of the Lutheran church and a republican in his political beliefs. He is widely and favorably known in the community where he resides, enjoying in a large degree the friendship and esteem of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### JOHN M. KILLMER.

John M. Killmer is a retired farmer living in Ashton. His present prosperity is attributable entirely to his persistent, earnest and intelligently directed efforts while he was engaged in farming. He was born in Binghamton, Lee county, Illinois, on the 28th of October, 1857, and is a son of Nicholas and Mary (Halbmaier) Killmer, who were natives of Germany. He remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-five years, pursuing his education in the district schools and in the schools of Ashton, while through vacation periods he was engaged in farm work and thus gained the experience which fitted him for practical duties later on. His first purchase of land comprised eighty acres on section 3, Bradford township, which had already been cultivated and improved to some extent. He received one hundred and sixty acres in section 10, from home and later purchased eighty acres in section 3. He afterward invested in one hundred and sixty acres on section 10 of the same township and there he built a new dwelling

and made his home until about seven years ago. He bent his energies to the further development and cultivation of the fields and converted his farm into a richly productive tract of land, from which he annually gathered good harvests. Everything about his place was neat and thrifty in appearance, and his progressive methods resulted in the attainment of success. About seven years ago he erected a beautiful residence in Ashton, since which time he has lived retired, enjoying the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. His wife owns one hundred and sixty-five acres on section 3, Bradford township, adjoining her husband's land, and she has also purchased the Wilburn Paddock property in Ashton with money inherited from her father's estate.

It was in 1883 that Mr. Killmer was united in marriage to Miss Martha Kersten, who was born in Lee county in 1858, and is a daughter of John and Christina Kersten, who were natives of Germany and became early settlers of Lee county, but are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Killmer have been born three children, but their two sons have passed away, William N. dying at the age of ten years and Frank at the age of nineteen. The daughter, Emma, who is a graduate of the Ashton high school, is at home.

The parents and daughter are members of the United Evangelical church and are interested in the moral progress of the community. For thirty years Mr. Killmer served as one of the church stewards and is now one of its trustees. He exercises his right of franchise in supporting the men and measures of the republican party. He filled the office of road overseer and road commissioner while on the farm and was also a school director. He is a stockholder and also a director in the Farmers State Bank at Ashton, Illinois. He stands for progress and improvement along all those lines which contribute to the welfare and upbuilding of the community, and his own life proves that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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#### LAURENT E. GEHANT.

Laurent E. Gehant has been a resident of Lee county since 1865 and has been connected with agricultural interests of Viola township for thirty-one years. He has therefore witnessed a great deal of the growth and development of this locality, which numbers him among its most representative and valued citizens. He was

born in Shelby county, Illinois, in 1860 and is a son of Laurent and Julia (Toullian) Gehant, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Laurent E. Gehant came to Lee county with his parents when he was five years of age and acquired his education in the public schools. At the age of twenty he laid aside his books and after assisting his father with the work of the farm until he was twenty-two began his independent career, buying the property which he now owns. He has five hundred and fifteen acres of improved land on section 30, Viola township, and upon this has erected a comfortable residence and substantial outbuildings. Mixed farming engages his attention and his stock-raising interests are important, for he keeps on an average fifty head of cattle, forty hogs and twenty horses. His business interests are carefully and conservatively conducted and have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

In Ohio, in 1882, Mr. Gehant married Miss Mary Henry, a daughter of August and Mary (Venier) Henry, the former of whom has passed away and is buried in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have become the parents of eight children: Louis and George, farmers in Lee county; Mary, the wife of George Montavon, also engaged in farming in this county; Louise, at home; Frances, the wife of Lewis Choan, a farmer of Lee county; Albert, deceased; and Edna and Pauline, at home.

Mr. Gehant is a member of the Catholic church and is connected fraternally with the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is a democrat in his political beliefs and while not active as an office seeker takes a commendable interest in public affairs. He has proved capable and reliable in the conduct of his personal affairs, and his contributions to general agricultural development have been many and substantial.

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#### ARTHUR R. KERSTEN.

Since the beginning of his active career Arthur R. Kersten has given his attention to general farming and stock-raising in Lee county and he is now the owner of an excellent property of one hundred and two acres on section 34, Ashton township. He was born in Bradford township, this county, January 23, 1886, and is a son of H. M. and Mary (Gross) Kersten, both natives of Lee

county and now residents of Ashton. To their union were born three children: Arthur R., of this review; Rosa C., the wife of Edward M. Herwig, of Bradford township; and Alice E., deceased.

Arthur R. Kersten was reared upon his father's farm in Bradford township and there remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He afterward engaged in farming upon rented land for two years and then bought the farm which he now owns. This comprises one hundred and two acres lying on section 34, Ashton township, and is in excellent condition as a result of the care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it. Mr. Kersten is a progressive and industrious farmer, and his thorough knowledge of the details of farm operation constitutes an important factor in his growing success.

Mr. Kersten married Miss Minnie D. Henert, who was born in this county December 7, 1885, a daughter of George and Katherine Henert, both of Germany. The father passed away in 1902 and is survived by his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Kersten have become the parents of a son, Clarence H., born November 25, 1907. The parents are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Kersten gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is a member of Ashton Lodge, No. 977, I. O. O. F., of Ashton, and he and his wife belong to the Rebekahs, of which Mrs. Kersten is now matron. His entire life has been spent in Lee county, where he has become widely and favorably known.

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### CHARLES EWALD.

A well known resident of Reynolds township is Charles Ewald, who, starting out in life on his own account upon a rented farm, is now the owner of a valuable property of three hundred and twenty acres, splendidly improved with good buildings and all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century. He was born in Germany, February 5, 1865, and is a son of Henry and Anna Martha (Beck) Ewald, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born in Hesse-Cassel, August 5, 1837, and was a son of Martin and Christina (Bogel) Ewald. He was married in Germany in 1864 to Miss Martha Beck and in the year 1873 they crossed the Atlantic with their family, making their way to Ogle county, Illinois, where the father worked at the stonemason's trade, which he had learned and fol-



lowed in his native land. In 1879 he removed to Lee county, settling in Reynolds township upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. His place was located on section 27 and his time thereafter was devoted to general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death, on the 10th of March, 1913. He had for a third of a century been a resident of this county and was widely known as a worthy and representative citizen. His widow survives and is now living with her son John on the old homestead, at the age of seventy-six years. Although now well advanced in age she yet enjoys good health, being a well preserved woman. In their family were seven children: Charles; William A.; Anna E., the wife of William Christian, now of Iowa; C. M.; John; Henry; and Katherine, who died at the age of three years.

Charles Ewald was a lad of eight summers when brought by his parents to the United States, and for six years thereafter he lived in Ogle county. At the end of that time the family came to Lee county, and he has since been a resident of Reynolds township. He continued under the parental roof until twenty-six years of age, after which he started out in life on his own account by renting land. He carefully saved his earnings until his economy and industry had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase a farm and in 1899 he invested in three hundred and twenty acres on sections 22 and 23, Reynolds township. With characteristic energy he began the further development of the property. He has here a comfortable residence, in the rear of which stand good barns and outbuildings, giving ample shelter for grain and stock. He uses the latest improved machinery in carrying on the work of the fields and makes a specialty of raising and breeding Hereford cattle, so that his farm has become known as the Reynolds Stock Farm. He handles only registered stock and has been the owner of some of the finest Herefords seen in this part of the state. His annual sales of stock bring him a very substantial income and, moreover, his labors have been of immense value in advancing the standards among stock-raisers in this part of Illinois.

On the 12th of March, 1891, Mr. Ewald was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Wagner, who was born in Reynolds township, a daughter of Martin and Martha (Henerd) Wagner. Mr. and Mrs. Ewald have become the parents of five children: Ralph M., born January 25, 1892; Harry J., June 12, 1894; Rosa Anna, July 24, 1897; Hilda K., May 21, 1903; and Esther E., Septem-



ber 23, 1909. The children have been given good school privileges, and the second son is a college graduate. The parents are members of the Evangelical church and are much interested in the moral as well as the material progress of the community. Mr. Ewald is serving as supervisor of his township, has been township collector and for several years was a school director. His political allegiance is now given to the progressive party. He does not believe in the blind following of any party leader, but gives intelligent support to the measures in which he believes, keeping at all times well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has many of the sterling traits of his Teutonic ancestry which, coupled with western enterprise, have made him one of the substantial citizens and representative farmers of Lee county.

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### H. W. MORRIS.

H. W. Morris is a well known and popular citizen, having been a letter carrier of Dixon since the establishment of the delivery system here. He is also senior partner in the firm of Morris & Preston, funeral directors. He was born in Woodstock, Illinois, in May, 1869, and is a son of J. T. and Anna (Portus) Morris, who after living in Woodstock for a number of years, removed with their family to Dixon in 1875. The father was a farmer by occupation.

The educational opportunities afforded H. W. Morris were those offered by the public-school system of the state. He was a young man when the free delivery system was established in Dixon, at which time he secured appointment to the position of letter carrier and has since acted in that capacity. It was through the efforts and labors of Mr. Morris that the city was numbered under the hundred system. Always courteous, prompt and obliging, he is a popular official in his present position and all who know him have for him friendly regard. It was on the 1st of July, 1911, that he entered business as a member of the firm of Morris & Preston, funeral directors. Their place is at No. 123 East First street and they have the best equipped establishment of any firm of its kind in the county. They are the first and only firm in the county having a private chapel in connection with their business.

Mr. Morris has two children, a son and daughter. In politics he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment.

While he does not seek nor desire office, he is interested in the welfare of the community and readily espouses any cause which he deems of worth to the public. He possesses a social nature that readily wins friends and he is ever appreciative of true worth in others.

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### WALTER L. PRESTON.

Walter L. Preston is a partner in the firm of Morris & Preston, conducting an undertaking business in Dixon. He had previously been connected with commercial interests in the city as the representative of others and is both widely and favorably known here. He possesses the spirit of enterprise characteristic of the middle west. He has always lived in the Mississippi valley, his birth having occurred at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, January 10, 1875, his parents being L. T. and Rosie Preston, who in the year 1878 came to Lee county. The father was a school teacher and was also the owner of a small farm near Dixon, living in this vicinity until 1880, when he removed with his family to Sublette, Illinois, where he accepted the position of superintendent of public schools, where he remained for four years. He taught school in Lee county until 1905. He was a capable educator, holding to high standards in his profession, and his ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired made his service of notable value to those under his instruction. He is now living retired and makes his home in California. He is numbered among the veterans of the Civil war, having enlisted in 1861, near Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and served until the close of hostilities, making a most creditable military record. In politics he has always been a republican, staunchly supporting the party which was the defence of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war and has always been accounted a party of reform and progress.

Walter L. Preston, after attending the public schools, spent three years as a student in the Northern Illinois Normal School and thus received good business training, qualifying him for the responsibilities and activities which have since claimed his attention. In 1889 he entered the furniture and undertaking business in the employ of the firm of Camp & Son and afterward worked for various people until July, 1911, when he joined H. W. Morris in opening undertaking parlors, which are conducted under the firm





H. W. MORRIS



WALTER L. PRESTON





style of Morris & Preston. The enterprise has been attended with success, for it has been conducted along the most progressive and enterprising lines. They have quarters in a fine brick business block and occupy the first floor and basement. Theirs is one of the best equipped undertaking establishments, not only in the county, but in this part of the state. They have a large reception hall and parlor as well as a show room containing an extensive line of fine caskets and in addition there is a tastefully appointed chapel capable of seating two hundred people. Tact and care are exercised in the performance of the delicate duties which devolve upon them and their services are sought throughout the surrounding country. Business has steadily grown as it deserves to do as the result of the enterprising and progressive methods of the partners.

On the 2d of November, 1898, Mr. Preston was united in marriage to Miss Julia Fielding, of Dixon, and unto them have been born four children: Frances, Louise, Robert and Julia. Mr. Preston belongs to Dixon Lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., and also holds membership with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political indorsement is given to the republican party at the polls, but he is not an active worker in its ranks in the matter of office seeking. He is, however, interested in all matters pertaining to the public welfare and cooperates in many movements looking to the betterment and improvement of the community.

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### WILLIAM B. BRINTON.

The name of William B. Brinton figures prominently upon the pages of the history of Lee county, for he is today at the head of one of the most extensive and important business interests of this part of the state, being president of the Grand Detour Plow Company.

Mr. Brinton was born in Greencastle, Indiana. His ancestors were Quakers and his father was a farmer. The advantages of a public-school education were enjoyed by him in his youth, and in 1865 he moved to Illinois, then only ten years of age. When seventeen he was clerk in a retail implement store. Thus his initial step in the business world led him in a direction that brought him eventually to the head of the important enterprise in which he is now the controlling spirit. He continued to act as

clerk until 1873. In 1876 he went on the road as traveling salesman for the Moline Wagon Company, which he represented until 1893. In June of that year he was appointed United States marshal for the southern district of Illinois, and discharged the duties of that position in a capable manner for four years. He next bought an interest in the Pern Plow Company in 1897 and was its president until 1905, when he came to Dixon and entered upon active connection with the Grand Detour Plow Company as its president. Mr. Brinton was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers of Implements and Vehicles for several years and was its president for one term. For sixteen years he was treasurer of the state democratic committee. He has received appointments from republican officials, Governor Yates having made him a commissioner to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, while Governor Tanner appointed him Illinois commissioner to the Omaha Exposition. He has been a delegate to national conventions of his party held in Denver, Colorado, and in Baltimore, Maryland. He has never been active as an office seeker, but in 1911 his fellow townsmen prevailed upon him to become the mayoralty candidate and at the election in April he was chosen to the office for a four years' term.

In 1875 Mr. Brinton was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda E. Wyeth of Tuscola, Illinois, and they now have two children: Helen, at home; and Bradford, a Yale graduate of 1904, who is now secretary and treasurer of the Grand Detour Plow Company. Fraternally Mr. Brinton is a Mason, and has attained the Knight Templar degree.

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### WILLIAM H. GONNERMANN.

A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates William H. Gonnermann in all that he does. He has worked diligently and persistently to develop and improve his farm, which is today a fine property of one hundred and sixty acres in Bradford township. He was born in this township December 1, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Katherine Gonnermann, natives of Germany. The parents came to America in 1866 and located in Lee county, Illinois, where the mother died in 1902. The father makes his home in Franklin Grove.

One of a family of seven children, William H. Gonnermann was reared at home and assisted in the operation of his father's farm until he was twenty-three years of age. His marriage occurred at that time and he afterward rented property, upon which he carried on general farming for some time. Eventually he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Bradford township. Upon this property he has since resided and he has steadily carried forward the work of improving and developing it so that it is today a valuable place, equipped with the accessories and conveniences of a model farm property. Mr. Gonnermann engages in general farming and stock-raising and his interests are carefully controlled, so that he has now reached a plane of affluence, being numbered among the substantial citizens of the community.

Mr. Gonnermann has been twice married. When he was twenty-three years of age he wedded Miss Lena H. Reinhart, a daughter of Anton and Catherine Reinhart, both natives of Germany. Mrs. Gonnermann passed away June 25, 1910, leaving two children: Arthur H. and Catherine H., both at home. In January, 1913, Mr. Gonnermann was again married, his second wife being Mrs. Marie (Stauffenberg) Wallace, the widow of Charles H. Wallace, a native of New York. Mrs. Gonnermann's parents were born in Germany and came to America in the early '70s. The father died in May, 1913, and is survived by his wife. Mrs. Gonnermann's first husband died in 1899 and was laid to rest in Ashton cemetery. He left two children, Henry and William, residents of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Gonnermann is a republican in his political beliefs and has served as school director. He is a progressive and public-spirited citizen and a capable and successful farmer and is held in high regard wherever he is known.

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### W. H. VOSBURGH.

Lee county numbers among its progressive and representative native sons W. H. Vosburgh, who occupies two hundred and forty acres of fine land on sections 23 and 26, Willow Creek township, and gives practically his entire attention to its improvement and cultivation. He was born in the house where he now resides July 10, 1867, a son of S. and Ellen (Atherton) Vosburgh, the former of whom came from Pennsylvania to Lee county, Illinois, in 1856, and settled upon the property which his son now occu-

pies. It was at that time a tract of wild prairie land, which with characteristic energy the father cultivated and improved, making it in time an attractive and valuable farm. S. Vosburgh was one of the prominent men of affairs in Lee county in early times and held various positions of public trust and responsibility, serving for seven years as supervisor, for four years as township assessor and also as trustee and school director. He is now living retired at Lee, in De Kalb county, having survived his wife since March, 1912. Her death occurred when she was seventy-eight years of age, and she was laid to rest in the Ellsworth cemetery. The Vosburgh family is of Dutch origin, and the paternal ancestors came from Holland to this country in very early times. Representatives of the maternal lines fought in the Revolutionary war.

W. H. Vosburgh acquired his education in the district schools of Lee county and afterward spent two years in Jennings Seminary in Aurora. When he was twenty-one years of age he turned his attention to teaching, following this occupation in the district schools for five years. At the end of that time he located upon the old homestead and has since operated this property, raising grain and stock. He has met with a gratifying degree of success and is known today as a substantial and progressive agriculturist.

In Shabbona township, De Kalb county, Illinois, June 9, 1898, Mr. Vosburgh married Miss Addie M. Cutts, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Cutts, the former a pioneer of that locality. Both have passed away and are buried in the English cemetery in Shabbona township. Mr. and Mrs. Vosburgh are the parents of a daughter, Margaret, who is attending district school. Mr. Vosburgh is a progressive republican in his political beliefs and has served as township supervisor and school trustee. He is interested in the development of the community in which he has spent his entire life and where his name has been held in high honor and respect since pioneer times.

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#### P. G. TYRRELL.

P. G. Tyrrell, who owns one hundred and thirty acres of excellent land on sections 3 and 10, May township, is a native of Lee county, born in Marion township, November 25, 1866. He is a son of John and Mary Tyrrell, the former of whom came to this



part of Illinois in 1860 and followed farming here for the remainder of his life. He died in 1892 and is buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. His wife makes her home in Amboy. The family is of Norwegian origin but its representatives settled in Ireland in the fourteenth century.

P. G. Tyrrell is one of a family of eight children. He acquired his education in the district schools of May township and laid aside his books at the age of twenty. He then rented land, following farming upon this property for twenty years, at the end of which time he purchased his present farm. He owns one hundred and thirty acres on sections 3 and 10, May township, and upon this property raises grain and live stock, meeting with excellent success.

In Dixon, Illinois, April 3, 1895, Mr. Tyrrell was united in marriage to Miss Isabelle Reeves, a daughter of Benjamin and Isabelle Reeves, the former a well known farmer of Lee county, now residing in Amboy. Mr. Tyrrell is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and a republican in his political beliefs. He is a director of the school board and for the past five years has served as assessor of the township. He is numbered among the most progressive and representative of Lee county's native sons, and his worth as a man and a citizen is widely acknowledged.

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### WILLIAM KILLMER.

William Killmer was born upon the farm in Bradford township which he operated for twenty years from the time of his marriage, and during most of his active life has been connected with agricultural interests of this locality, being today numbered among its representative and successful farmers. His birth occurred January 31, 1859, his parents being Nicholas and Mary (Halbmaier) Killmer, natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in 1852, settling in Lee county, Illinois, and some months later the mother also arrived in Lee county, where they were married. In 1884 they removed to Ashton, where they resided during the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1892 and the mother in 1893. They were the parents of six children, of whom two survive.

William Killmer acquired his education in the district schools of Bradford township and remained at home until his marriage.

He then rented the old home farm and after operating it for some years inherited it. This comprises one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land and upon it Mr. Killmer has made excellent improvements, bringing the fields under a high state of cultivation and erecting substantial barns and outbuildings. In addition to this property he owns a livery barn and a modern dwelling in Ashton and his wife has ninety-two acres of land in Ashton township and a residence property in Ashton. For nine years Mr. Killmer was engaged in the livery business in Ashton and he built a garage which he has since sold. His son Alfred conducts the home farm, while another son, George, is conducting his mother's place, and Mr. Killmer expects soon to engage in the automobile and garage business in Ashton.

When he was twenty-five years of age Mr. Killmer married Miss Mary E. Ross, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Katherine E. (Aschenbrenner) Ross, natives of Germany, both of whom died in Lee county. Mr. and Mrs. Killmer became the parents of four children: George M., who was born February 9, 1885; Alfred W., born December 1, 1887; Mary Elizabeth, born June 2, 1890; and Anna W., whose birth occurred May 2, 1892.

The parents and children are members of the United Evangelical church and Mr. Killmer gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has served as school trustee and is progressive and public-spirited in all matters of citizenship, cooperating heartily in movements for the general good. A resident of Lee county since his birth, he is well known throughout the community and his energy and enterprise have gained him the respect and confidence of all who come in contact with him.

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### JAMES BUCKLEY.

James Buckley, a representative and esteemed citizen of Lee county, devotes his attention to general agricultural pursuits with gratifying success and is the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 21, May township. His birth occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1854, his parents being Michael and Rosanna (McGreer) Buckley. In 1861 the family came to Lee county, Illinois, and here the parents spent their remaining days. Michael Buckley passed away in 1878 and his wife,

surviving him for almost a quarter of a century, died in 1902. Their remains were interred in St. Patrick's cemetery of May township.

James Buckley was a little lad of seven when he came to this county with his parents and here attended school until twenty-two years of age. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until the latter's demise and subsequently went west, spending about two years in that part of the country in railroad work. On returning home he took possession of the farm of two hundred and forty acres which he now owns and in the operation of which he has won a gratifying annual income. He engages in mixed farming and keeps about eighteen horses, thirty head of cattle, sixty hogs and several hundred head of poultry. He erected the residence and other buildings which adorn his property, has ever followed the most modern and resultant methods in the conduct of his agricultural interests and has long been numbered among the substantial and leading citizens of the community.

In 1884, in May township, Mr. Buckley was joined in wedlock to Miss Margaret Dougherty, a daughter of Charles and Catherine Dougherty, who are deceased and lie buried in the Dixon cemetery. Our subject and his wife have seven children, as follows: John, Charles, William, Harry, Edward, James and Frank, all at home.

Mr. Buckley gives his political allegiance to the republican party and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to several positions of public trust. He has ably served in the capacity of supervisor since 1905, also acted as collector for about two years, as town clerk for four years and as a school director for six years, ever discharging his public duties in a prompt and capable manner. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and is also a devout communicant of the Catholic church. That his life has been well spent is indicated by the fact that many of his warmest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present.

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### LAFAYETTE LONG.

For many years Lafayette Long has been closely and prominently connected with agricultural interests of Lee county and is today the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres on sections 24 and 18, May township. He was born upon a farm about one

mile from his present place of residence April 29, 1849, and is a son of John R. and Elizabeth (Moore) Long, the former of whom came from Pennsylvania in 1846 and settled on a farm in May township. He was a pioneer in that locality and upon his arrival found nothing but a wilderness of prairie land. He broke and cultivated the tract which he took up and became in the course of years one of the best known and most highly respected residents of the locality. He died May 7, 1889, at the age of sixty-seven, and was long survived by his wife, who passed away September 23, 1913, being over eighty-eight years of age. She lived to be one of the oldest white women in that part of Lee county.

She and her husband were married in Pennsylvania, March 6, 1845, and became the parents of six children: Austin, who died in infancy; Mary, now the wife of R. L. Smith, of Fort Williams, Canada; Lafayette, the subject of this review; Lucinda, who died in infancy; James M., who passed away January 11, 1886, at the age of thirty-three years; and Joseph W., whose death occurred May 9, 1887, when he was thirty-one years of age.

Lafayette Long acquired his education in district school, attending until he was twenty years of age. He afterward worked as a monthly laborer for six years and at the end of that time purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm. He has since added to this and has now two hundred acres, lying on sections 24 and 18, May township. He engages in mixed farming, raising grain and keeping forty head of cattle and a number of horses and hogs.

Mr. Long is a republican in his political beliefs and is connected fraternally with the Masonic lodge and chapter. The success which he has attained in his farming operations is entirely due to his own industry and enterprise and places him among the men of prominence and worth in his locality.

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FRANK C. VAUGHAN.

Lee county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her public office, for on the whole they have been found trustworthy and competent in the discharge of their duties and the interests of the county have therefore been ably conserved. On the list of officials at the present time appears the name of



FRANK C. VAUGHAN





Frank C. Vaughan. He is county treasurer and the first democrat elected in the county in twenty years, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him. He was born in Amboy, Illinois, March 17, 1863, and is a son of C. D. and Louisa M. (Balch) Vaughan, who were natives of Plattsburg, New York. Removing westward to Illinois in 1854, they settled in Amboy, where the father became the first furniture dealer and undertaker of the town. For a long period he was an active factor in business circles there and was equally prominent in other connections. He was one of the leaders of the democratic party in this county and filled the office of clerk of the court of common pleas. He was also alderman and mayor of Amboy for a number of years and exercised his official prerogatives in support of many valuable public measures contributing to the welfare and advancement of the city. The public passed high encomiums upon him because of his fidelity to duty and when he passed away in 1888 the news of his demise brought a sense of personal bereavement to almost every home in Amboy. His widow still survives and is now living in Amboy, at the age of eighty-four years.

Frank C. Vaughan acquired a high-school education in his native town. His business training was begun when he was a lad of fourteen, at which time he entered his father's store, of which he is now the proprietor. He has the oldest furniture and undertaking business in the county. In the conduct of the establishment he has followed progressive methods, keeping in touch with the latest things which the furniture market affords, and his enterprising spirit and progressive methods have brought him substantial success. He was elected president of the State Undertakers Association for two years, the only time in the history of that organization that anyone has served a second term. Mr. Vaughan first held minor political positions in Amboy and his faithfulness in that connection led to his selection for higher honors. In 1910 he was chosen county treasurer, being the first democrat elected in Lee county for two decades and the first representative of his party to occupy offices in the new courthouse, which was completed in 1901. He has brought to bear in the discharge of his present duties the same spirit of fidelity that marked his course in former official connections and even those holding opposing political views have naught to say derogatory to his service. For twenty years he has been chief of the Amboy fire department and has thus figured in many public connections, all of which have been of benefit to the district which he represents.

On the 25th of February, 1889, Mr. Vaughan was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Briggs, of Amboy, and they have become the parents of two children, Frank and Edith Caroline. Mr. Vaughan is a very prominent Mason, holding membership in the lodge and in the various branches of York Rite Masonry and also in the consistory and the shrine. He is likewise connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America and holds membership in the Baptist church, which finds him loyal to its teachings and generous in its support. The social position of the family is one of prominence and they have an extensive circle of warm friends in Lee county.

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### JOHN KERSTEN.

Among the early pioneers of Lee county was John Kersten, a self-made man whose gratifying prosperity had its root in frugality, industry and determination. He was numbered among the early pioneers of his section of Illinois, arriving in 1857. His birth occurred in Germany, February 15, 1831, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. Hartman Kersten, the former born in the fatherland, September 30, 1801, and the latter in 1802.

John Kersten acquired his education in schools of Germany and remained at home until twenty-five years of age, assisting his father, his thorough training giving him experience and knowledge which proved of marked value in later years.

On the 18th of June, 1856, Mr. Kersten was united in marriage to Miss Christine Hildebrandt, a native of Gelfershausen, Kreis-Rothenburg, Kerr-Hessen, Germany, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Speck) Hildebrandt, the former born in 1787 and the latter in 1799. The year following their marriage John Kersten and his young wife came to the new world, crossing the Atlantic in order to seek their fortune in America, having heard many favorable reports concerning the advantages and opportunities offered in this land. Mr. Kersten arrived in Lee county with but a dollar and a half in his pocket. Necessity made it imperative that he seek immediate employment. He was energetic and ambitious to earn a good living and by his frugality, unabating energy and economy he added to his savings year by year until he became the owner of a fine farm which he developed and improved. As the

years rolled by he won prosperity and at the time of his death was the owner of six hundred and forty acres of as valuable land as could be found in Lee county, and there is no richer elsewhere. His life is an example of what the sturdy German can accomplish when energy and resolute purpose point out the way. Moreover, he left to his family an inheritance which money cannot buy—that of an untarnished name.

Mr. and Mrs. Kersten became the parents of eleven children, ten of whom survive. Mr. Kersten passed away on the 10th of July, 1912, and just three months later, on the 10th of October, the death of Mrs. Kersten occurred, the county thereby losing two of its valued and worthy pioneer citizens.

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### CARL MARTIN EWALD.

No history of Lee county would be complete without extended mention of the Ewald family. Its members are known throughout this part of the state as progressive farmers and stock-raisers and each of the sons has displayed sterling characteristics of industry and determination in the conduct of his business affairs, thereby attaining success and winning a place among the self-made men of the county. Carl Martin Ewald was born in Germany, April 18, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Anna Martha Ewald, who in 1873 bade adieu to friends and native land and with their family sailed for the new world. Coming to Illinois, they established their home in Ogle county and in 1879 removed to Lee county. Carl M. Ewald continued with his parents until thirty-one years of age, at which time he was united in marriage to Miss Ida Wendt, who was born in Bradford township, September 27, 1883, and is a daughter of William and Amelia (Engal) Wendt, both of whom were natives of Germany but in early life came to the new world and were married in this country. They established their home in Lee county, where they lived for a long period. The father passed away in 1887, but the mother survives and is now a resident of Ashton. They had a family of seven children: Frank, who is a resident of Nebraska; Grace, the wife of Conrad Smith, of Ashton; Fred, living in Lee county; Emma, the wife of John Schaffer, of Cook county, Illinois; William, who makes his home in Rochelle, this state; Mrs. Ewald; and Matilda, who is the wife of William Rankie, of Ashton.



Following his marriage Carl M. Ewald established his home upon a rented farm, where he lived for some years. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until he was able to purchase property. In 1910 he became the owner of the farm of two hundred acres on section 24, Reynolds township, on which he now makes his home. He has always been interested in stock-raising, handling not only cattle but also horses and hogs, which he raises and feeds, preparing them for the market. He keeps on hand high-grade stock and is one of the leading live-stock dealers in his part of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewald have a family of three children: Earl H., born January 30, 1904; Clarence C., February 7, 1906; and Lucile Grace, May 18, 1909. Mrs. Ewald is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Ewald contributes to its support. He votes with the republican party but has not sought nor desired political preferment. He has served, however, as school director and recognizes the value of education as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. Industry has been the keynote of his character and it is because he has worked hard, directing his labor by sound judgment, that he has reached a place among the substantial farmers and stock-raisers of Reynolds township.

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### JOSEPH M. HERRMANN.

Joseph M. Herrmann is one of the extensive landowners and most prosperous and representative farmers and stock-raisers in Willow Creek township, owning six hundred and six acres of fine land on sections 17, 18, 20 and 21. He has lived upon his property for many years and has been very successful in its cultivation, his prosperity being entirely the result of his unremitting energy and sound judgment. Mr. Herrmann has been a resident of Lee county since 1856 but was born in New Jersey in 1850, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Eck) Herrmann, both of whom have passed away. The former died in 1872 and the latter in 1888, and they are buried in Twin Groves cemetery, Willow Creek township.

Joseph M. Herrmann acquired his education in the public schools of Lee county and after laying aside his books assisted his father with the work of the farm until the latter's death. He and his brothers then operated the homestead in their mother's inter-



ests for a number of years. After her death the property was divided, Mr. Herrmann of this review receiving as his share one hundred and sixty acres, upon which there was a mortgage of four thousand dollars. With characteristic energy he applied himself to the work of developing this property and soon had it entirely free from debt and in excellent condition. At intervals thereafter he added to his holdings until he now owns six hundred and six acres lying on sections 17, 18, 20 and 21. In addition to raising grain he is a stock breeder on an extensive scale and has on an average one hundred head of cattle, forty hogs, twenty sheep and twenty horses. He is one of the successful men of this township and may truly be called a self-made man, for his prosperity has been won entirely through his own well directed efforts.

In Rochelle, Illinois, on the 16th of November, 1881, Mr. Herrmann married Miss Mary E. Riley, a daughter of John and Catherine Riley, residents of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Herrmann have six children: Joseph Albert, assistant cashier in the Rochelle National Bank; William H., manager of the Scarboro Elevator Company at Scarboro, Illinois; Robert J., a farmer of Lee county; Louise, at home; and Irvin and Claude, who are assisting their father.

Mr. Herrmann is a member of the Catholic church and is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a democrat in his political beliefs and has held various public offices, serving as highway commissioner for twenty years, as assessor for fourteen years and as school treasurer for thirteen. He is also president of The Scarboro Elevator Company and a director of The Lee State Bank. A man of enterprise, energy and ambition, he has identified his interests thoroughly with those of the community and for many years his activities have been a force in advancement. His life is exemplary in all respects and he holds the esteem and confidence of all who are associated with him.

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### CHARLES THOMAS SELF.

Among the successful business men of Dixon, Illinois, is Charles Thomas Self, who for a number of years has conducted a blacksmith shop here. Mr. Self is a native of Lee county, where he was born August 14, 1882, three and a half miles north of Franklin Grove, his parents being Francis Enoch and Nancy Lorella Self.

Charles T. Self received his education in the public schools of Franklin Grove, graduating in 1900, in which year he removed to Dixon. There he entered his father's blacksmith shop and in partnership with his brother, G. H. Self, bought out the father's interest in the business in 1903. Mr. Self continued until 1909 as part owner, but in that year acquired his brother's share. He has proved himself a reliable business man and has an up-to-date shop, enjoying a large patronage. Although yet young in years, he is well on the road to prosperity.

Mr. Self has always interested himself in public affairs and has given his support to a number of worthy enterprises that have been of benefit to the community and the county. On the progressive ticket he made the race for circuit clerk but was defeated by a majority of two hundred and thirty votes, the republican candidate being elected. Considering the strength of the latter party in the county, Mr. Self made a remarkable showing. In 1912 he was elected as county supervisor for a term of two years and now serves with efficiency in the county government, ably representing his district on the board. Along religious lines he is a member of the Christian church. He is well known in Y. M. C. A. circles, of which organization he is a member, and he is also connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to which society he has belonged since 1904. Mr. Self takes interest in bowling and for the past six years has been a member of the city bowling team of Dixon. He is esteemed and respected by all who know him and in social and business circles has made many friends who honor him for his high qualities of character.

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#### DAVID SMITH.

One cannot carry investigations far into the pioneer history of Lee county without learning of the honorable and worthy part which David Smith has taken in the work of promoting development and advancement. He is one of the oldest residents of this locality, having made his home on the farm on which he lives since 1837 although he now rents most of the farm to three of his grandnephews. Since the beginning of his active career his influence has been a force in progress, being given always to measures of public advancement and reform. At the age of eighty-two Mr. Smith is still interested in agricultural pursuits, owning a fine

farm of four hundred and fifteen acres on section 35, Willow Creek township, but for a few years he has rented most of the farm, except the timber, to relatives. He was born near Campbelltown, Argyleshire, Scotland, July 16, 1831, and is a son of John and Jane Smith, who crossed the Atlantic to America in 1837, arriving in New York after a journey of six weeks. They pushed westward to Illinois and settled in Lee county among the pioneers in this locality. They took up land which was not yet surveyed and the father and his eldest son, Robert, fenced and broke, or plowed, for the first time, most of the farm, which was three-fourths prairie, and carried forward the work of improvement for many years. Robert Smith died in 1905, after many years of close connection with agricultural interests in this locality. He is buried in Wyoming cemetery. John Smith passed away in 1860, having survived his wife twenty years, and both are interred in the Ellsworth cemetery. They became the parents of ten children, four of whom died in Scotland. Martha married William Hopps, who passed away in Wheeling, Cook county, Illinois. Robert died in 1905. John passed away in August, 1837, at the age of nine and is buried in the Ellsworth cemetery. David is the subject of this review. Jane became the wife of Nathaniel Nettleton who passed away during the Civil war and is buried in the Ellsworth cemetery. His wife died June 5, 1894, and was laid to rest in the Ellsworth cemetery beside her husband. Alexander C., born in Illinois in July, 1837, fought in the Union cavalry during the Civil war and died of sickness at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee in April, 1862. He is also buried in Ellsworth cemetery.

David Smith was six years of age when he came to Lee county with his parents. He attended school in Paw Paw and in Wheeling, Cook county, until he was twenty-one years of age, pursuing his studies during the winter months and assisting with the work of the farm during the summers. When the father died and his land was divided David Smith received one hundred and eighty acres and he afterward added greatly to this property, owning at one time nine hundred acres. He has since sold portions of this but retains four hundred and fifteen acres on section 35, Willow Creek township. Upon this fine property he raises grain and stock, keeping cattle, horses and hogs. He has been very successful in breeding swine and has owned as many as three hundred high-grade animals. Throughout the years he has steadily carried forward the work of improving his farm, and the result of

his labors is seen in its attractive appearance. Mr. Smith was at one time vice president and a director in the State Bank of Paw Paw and is now a large stockholder, and he is interested in many other enterprises which are factors in general growth.

Upon its organization Mr. Smith joined the republican party and voted for its candidates continuously until 1912, when he entered the ranks of the progressives. He was for three years township supervisor, has been township treasurer, trustee and assessor and also school trustee and school director. In fact he has held practically every important position within the gift of his fellow citizens, for he has been at all times interested in the advancement of the community and takes every means in his power to promote its progress. During the many years of his residence here he has won a high place in the esteem and regard of all who know him, and he has an extensive circle of warm friends.

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### HENRY EWALD, JR.

The name of Ewald is well known to all who are familiar with the history of agricultural development and progress in Reynolds township and Lee county, for through more than a third of a century the family has been represented here and its members have taken an active and helpful part in promoting farming interests in this section of the state. Henry Ewald, Jr., now living on section 22, Reynolds township, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, February 6, 1877, and is a son of Henry and Anna Martha Ewald, of whom further mention is made on another page of this volume in connection with the sketch of Charles Ewald. The family removed from Ogle to Lee county in 1879, and Henry Ewald, Jr., spent his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farm lads, working in the fields through the summer months, attending the district schools during the winter seasons and finding time and opportunity for play when more serious tasks did not engage him. He continued to assist his father in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he was united in marriage on the 20th of June, 1905, to Miss Marie Kaecker, who was born in Bradford township, January 7, 1880, a daughter of William and Minnie (Aschenbrenner) Kaecker. The father was born in Germany and came to America when twenty-one years of





HENRY EWALD, JR., AND FAMILY





age. The mother is a native of Lee county, Illinois, where she still makes her home, being now a resident of Bradford township. In their family were twelve children, ten of whom survive.

Following his marriage Mr. Ewald began his domestic life upon a rented farm, which he continued to till for seven years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, Reynolds township, a tract which was then partially improved. He has continued its further development along progressive lines of farming and annually the fields bring forth rich crops owing to the care and labor which he bestows upon them. His methods are at once practical and progressive and in addition to raising grain he makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock, which constitutes an important source of his income.

As the years have gone by Mr. and Mrs. Ewald have become the parents of three children: Fern Anna M., born April 4, 1906, Mark William, August 17, 1910, and Lloyd Andrew William, January 28, 1912. The parents hold membership in the Evangelical church, and Mr. Ewald gives his political support to the republican party but has never sought nor desired office as a reward for party fealty, preferring to give his undivided attention to his farming interests, which, capably managed, are bringing to him a good return.

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### HENRY L. GEHANT.

Henry L. Gehant, the tenant of a valuable tract of land comprising two hundred and twenty acres on section 31, Viola township, devotes his attention to mixed farming with excellent success and is well known as one of the enterprising young citizens of his native county. He was here born in the year 1883 and is a son of Frank J. and Victoria (Henry) Gehant, who make their home in West Brooklyn and are highly esteemed residents of the community.

Henry L. Gehant attended school in Lee county until eighteen years of age and subsequently assisted his father in the work of the home farm for three years. On the expiration of that period he embarked in the hardware business as the junior member of the firm of Bernardin & Gehant, being thus engaged for six years. He then disposed of his interest in the concern and again turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits, having since de-

voted his time and energies to the operation of a farm of two hundred and twenty acres on section 31, Viola township. In addition to the cultivation of cereals he gives considerable attention to stock, keeping about fourteen horses, thirty-five cattle and fifteen hogs. He operates two threshing outfits and also acts as agent for the Studebaker automobile in Viola, Sublette, Lee Center and Brooklyn townships.

On the 7th of January, 1908, in Amboy, Mr. Gehant was united in marriage to Miss Theresa Stiel, her parents being Valentine and Anna (Lauer) Stiel, the former a farmer of Amboy township. Mr. Gehant gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has fraternal relations with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has spent his entire life in Lee county and is widely recognized as one of its prosperous, progressive and representative citizens.

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### MORRIS COOK.

Morris Cook makes his home on section 23, Alto township, and his property in addition to the home farm makes his landed possessions aggregate five hundred and sixty-five acres, constituting a valuable property. He is not only one of the progressive agriculturists, but one of the wide-awake and patriotic citizens of his community, where he is now filling the position of township supervisor. He was born in Kendall county, Illinois, September 10, 1864, a son of Morris and Elizabeth (Cooper) Cook, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, whence they came to this state about 1850, settling in Kendall county. In 1866 they became residents of Alto township, Lee county, and the father purchased a farm, which is now the property of his son Morris. With characteristic energy he began its development and improvement and concentrated his energies upon its cultivation until his death, which occurred in 1885. His widow survived him for many years, passing away in 1911. They were the parents of eleven children, five of whom are now living.

Morris Cook, reared under the parental roof, assisted his father until nineteen years of age, and then assumed the management of the old home place. He proved his ability to successfully conduct the farm and in 1909 he purchased the property, his home place, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 23, Alto

township. In 1911 he purchased the old homestead, comprising two hundred and forty-five acres on section 14, Alto township, and prior to this he had invested in one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, of the same township, so that he now owns altogether five hundred and sixty-five acres of rich and valuable land, that responds readily to the care and cultivation he bestows upon it. While his fields produce good crops, in his pastures are to be found registered Hereford cattle and draft horses, of which he makes a specialty, raising a large number each year.

In 1888 Mr. Cook was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude C. Hemenway, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Cynthia (Dewey) Hemenway, the former a native of Will county, Illinois, and the latter of the state of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Cook have become the parents of six children: Effie G., now the wife of M. M. Fell; Harold H.; Lyal E.; M. Gardner; Marjorie L.; and Florence A. The parents hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Cook belongs to the Masonic fraternity at Steward. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and he is now serving as supervisor of Alto township, while for five years he filled the office of assessor. He has also been school director and is interested in the cause of education as a preparation for the young for life's practical and responsible duties. Mr. Cook is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. Gradually he has worked his way upward, and his persistent energy has made him one of the substantial citizens of his part of the county.

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### WILLIAM M. SHAW.

William M. Shaw, a prominent agriculturist and extensive landowner of Lee county, devotes his attention to the cultivation of a farm of four hundred and seventy-five acres in Amboy township. His birth occurred in this county on the 24th of September, 1847, his parents being Henry G. and Jane (Waldron) Shaw, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. The father's demise occurred in 1874, while the mother passed away in April, 1902, both being sincerely mourned by an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances.

William M. Shaw attended the schools of his native county until sixteen years of age and subsequently spent about five years

assisting his father in the operation of the home place. During the following twelve years he worked at almost any employment that offered and which would yield him an honest dollar, and on the expiration of that period started out as an agriculturist on his own account, coming into possession of the farm of four hundred and seventy-five acres which he has since operated. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and keeps about thirty horses, sixty head of cattle and fifty hogs, meeting with a gratifying and well merited measure of success in both branches of his business. The residence and other buildings on the property were erected by him and stand as monuments to his enterprising spirit and wisely directed industry.

Mr. Shaw gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has fraternal relations with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is widely known throughout the county in which he has resided during his entire life, or for about two-thirds of a century, and his substantial characteristics have gained him the warm regard and unqualified trust of his fellow townsmen.

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### JOHN W. BANKS.

John W. Banks, supervisor of Brooklyn township and a partner in the operation of grain, seed and coal concerns at Compton and Paw Paw, was born in Paris, Ontario, January 26, 1861. He is a son of Joseph and Hannah L. (McDonald) Banks, the former of whom came from England to Canada about the year 1840 and followed farming in Ontario for a number of years. In 1862 he moved to Lee county, Illinois, and after engaging in agricultural pursuits for eight years he moved to Malugins Grove and became connected with the mail service as a carrier in 1869. At the end of four years he moved to Compton, where he was appointed postmaster. In 1887 he went to California and he died in Los Angeles in 1908, at the age of eighty-five. He was survived by his wife one year, her death occurring when she was seventy-eight years of age. Both are buried in Rosedale cemetery, Los Angeles.

John W. Banks was still an infant when he came to Lee county with his parents. He acquired his education in the public schools of Compton and at the age of thirteen laid aside his books, working for a few years thereafter as a farm laborer. In 1887 he became clerk for the firm of Warner & Guffin, dealers in grain, seed



and coal, and in 1889 became manager of the concern operated by this firm. In 1907 he was admitted into partnership, the old name being, however, retained. His work has been a helpful factor in the success of the firm, which now operates establishments in Compton and Paw Paw. He is known as a resourceful, farsighted and able business man and has been carried forward into important relations with the general business life of the locality.

In Dixon, on the 23d of January, 1895, Mr. Banks married Miss Elizabeth McBride, a daughter of J. S. and Abbey (Carnahan) McBride, the latter the daughter of one of the oldest settlers in Lee county. Her father now resides with his family in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Banks have two sons: Stanley M., who was graduated from Paw Paw high school in 1912; and Smith M., attending school.

Mr. Banks is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is connected fraternally with the Masonic lodge; Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I. O. O. F.; the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Order of the Eastern Star. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is very active in community affairs. He was for six years chairman of the republican county central committee and was president of the village board for a similar period of time. In 1911 he was appointed supervisor of Brooklyn township and elected in 1913 to the same position, which he still holds and the duties of which he discharges with credit and ability. In whatever relation of life he is found he is honorable and straightforward, being recognized as a capable man of business and a public-spirited and progressive citizen.

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### FRANK J. CAHILL.

An enterprise like that of the Borden Condensed Milk Company must needs have as the heads of its several departments men of marked ability, of indefatigable enterprise and of sound judgment. Such a one is found in Frank J. Cahill, now office manager at Dixon for the corporation. He is a young man, ambitious, energetic and determined, and brings to the discharge of the important and onerous duties that devolve upon him keen insight and a ready appreciation of business situations and possibilities. He was born in Dixon, September 30, 1880, and is a son of Edward F. and Mary (Donelly) Cahill. The parents came to Lee

county from Boston, Massachusetts, in 1874, and the father, who was a merchant tailor, made that business his life work, passing away in 1896. The mother still survives and yet makes her home in Dixon.

Frank J. Cahill, the sixth in order of birth in a family of thirteen children, pursued a public-school education, passing through the consecutive grades until graduated from the Dixon high school. He then joined his father and was connected with the tailoring business for a short time. He also spent a brief period in connection with the shoe trade but in 1898 entered the employ of the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, with which he continued to the time that the business was sold to the Borden interests in 1902. Gradually he has worked his way upward in this connection, thoroughly mastering all of the duties that have devolved upon him until he is now office manager and is recognized as a most efficient, capable and trustworthy man for the position.

On the 19th of June, 1912, Mr. Cahill was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Clark, of Dixon. They are members of the Catholic church and he belongs also to the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he takes an advanced stand in opposition to monopoly rule and to party management by machine bosses. He is allied with the progressive party and he is ever fearless in espousing his honest convictions. While a busy man he yet finds time for cooperation in plans and projects for the public good.

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### ANDREW GEHANT.

Andrew Gehant owns a farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres on section 5, Brooklyn township, and is numbered among the substantial and progressive agriculturists of the community, having by his sound business judgment and practical methods surrounded himself with a gratifying degree of prosperity. He was born in Lee county on the farm which he now owns in 1869 and is a son of Laurent and Julia (Toullian) Gehant, the former of whom came from France in 1854, settling at Lee Center, where he worked in a stone quarry. He afterward moved to Shelby county, where he purchased land, engaging in agricultural pursuits there for ten years. In 1866 he returned to Lee county and bought a farm in West Brooklyn, whereon he made his home until

his death in 1897. His wife survived him two years and passed away at the age of seventy-two.

Andrew Gehant acquired his education in the public schools of West Brooklyn, laying aside his books at the age of sixteen. He then assisted his father with the work of the farm until the latter's death, after which he came into possession of the homestead which he still owns. Upon it he has erected an excellent residence and substantial farm buildings and has carried forward the work of cultivation along modern lines, making the property one of the finest in his locality. He keeps twenty-two head of cattle, fifty swine and seven horses, and his stock-raising interests form one of the important sources of his income.

In West Brooklyn, July 10, 1899, Mr. Gehant married Miss Pauline Jeanguenat, a daughter of Peter and Rose Jeanguenat, the latter of whom passed away in 1896 and is buried in Portsmouth, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Gehant have four children: Agnes, Anthony, Lucille and Carl A.

Mr. Gehant is a member of the Roman Catholic church and is connected fraternally with the Catholic Order of Foresters. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party. A representative of one of the best known families of his locality, he has by his honorable principles and straightforward dealing added greatly to the high esteem in which his name is held.

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### LOUIS GEHANT.

The agricultural interests of Lee county find a worthy representative in Louis Gehant, who owns and operates an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Viola township. His birth occurred in this county on the 26th of September, 1883, his parents being Laurent E. and Mary (Henry) Gehant. A sketch of the father, who is a prominent agriculturist of Viola township, appears on another page of this work.

Louis Gehant attended school in this county until fifteen years of age and subsequently assisted his father in the work of the home farm for about nine years. On the expiration of that period he came into possession of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Viola township, the operation of which has claimed his time and energies continuously since. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also devotes considerable

attention to live stock, keeping about twelve horses, five cattle and twenty hogs. He erected the residence and other buildings which stand on his property and is widely recognized as an enterprising, up-to-date and progressive agriculturist.

In 1908, in Janesville, Wisconsin, Mr. Gehant was united in marriage to Miss Eva Henry, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Henry. The father, who passed away in 1900, lies buried in Kansas, but the mother survives and makes her home at Steward, Illinois. Our subject and his wife have two children, Paul and Julius.

In his political views Mr. Gehant is a democrat, loyally supporting the men and measures of that party at the polls. He is a devout communicant of the Catholic church and also belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. In the county where his entire life has been spent he is well known and highly esteemed as a substantial agriculturist and representative young citizen.

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#### ERNEST H. WIENER.

Ernest H. Wiener is engaged in general farming on a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Reynolds township, and is an industrious, energetic man, whose success in life is attributable entirely to his own labors. He was born October 7, 1866, in the township in which he still makes his home, his parents being E. and Elizabeth (Hunstock) Wiener, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father came to America in 1858, and the mother arrived a year later. They became residents of Lee county, Illinois, where the father still makes his home. He was a painter by trade and followed that occupation about two years after coming to America, but afterward purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Reynolds township and began farming. For a considerable period he devoted his energies to general agricultural pursuits but is now living retired in Ashton. His wife passed away in 1899. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom seven are living.

Ernest H. Wiener remained upon the old homestead farm until he attained his majority and during that period was a pupil in the public schools. He was married in 1889 to Miss Catherine Bolei, a daughter of George and Catherine (Bower) Bolei, both of whom were natives of Germany, but in the early '50s came to





ERNEST H. WIENER AND FAMILY





the United States and were married in Lee county in 1859. Subsequently they removed to Marshall county, Iowa, where both spent their remaining days, passing away in the year 1909. In their family were six children, all of whom survive. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wiener have been born three children: Oscar William, born December 14, 1889; Mabel M., who was born May 10, 1891, and is the wife of G. W. Henert; and Myrtle Helen, born April 20, 1896.

After his marriage Mr. Wiener rented land of his father, but, carefully saving his earnings, was at length enabled to purchase the farm upon which he now resides, comprising a quarter section of the rich land of Reynolds township. He is persistent and energetic in the cultivation of his place, and good crops annually reward his labors. While an active business man, he is at the same time interested in the welfare and progress of the community and has aided in many movements for the general good. His political allegiance has been given to the republican party, and he is now in sympathy with the progressive element. He has served as constable for ten years and has also filled the office of school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 48. He and his wife are much interested in the moral development of the community, holding membership in the Evangelical Association of which he is one of the trustees and also chief of the stewards. He is likewise the teacher of the young men's Bible class and he does all in his power to advance the growth of the church and extend its influence, his efforts constituting a factor in the moral development and progress of the community. Here he is well known, and the high regard in which he is uniformly held indicates that his has been an honorable and upright life.

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### RALPH JOSEPH DEAN.

Ralph Joseph Dean, who since July 1, 1904, has edited and published the Ashton Gazette, was born in LaMoille, Bureau county, Illinois, February 7, 1881. He is a son of George B. and Grace L. (Crossman) Dean, the former of whom was engaged in business in LaMoille for about forty years, during the last twenty of which he conducted an undertaking and furniture establishment.

Ralph Joseph Dean acquired his education in the public schools of his native city, graduating from the LaMoille high school in

1899. Following the completion of his studies he turned his attention to photography, conducting a studio in Mendota for about three years. Since July 1, 1904, he has owned and edited the Ashton Gazette, and he has made this paper a power in local affairs, supporting in its columns many movements of reform and advancement. He has made it an excellent news medium and under his able management its circulation and advertising patronage have steadily increased.

In York, Nebraska, July 19, 1906, Mr. Dean married Miss Alice E. Blanchard, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Blanchard, formerly of Mendota, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Dean had two children: Roland Howard and Helen Maude, both of whom have passed away. A son, Robert Ralph, was born January 31, 1914.

Mr. Dean is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America, being at present clerk of Ashton Camp, No. 48. He is also a member of Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M., and past grand of Ashton Lodge, No. 977, I. O. O. F. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is an earnest supporter of its principles and candidates. He is a man of energy, enterprise and resource—qualities which he has made effective forces in promoting his advancement in journalistic circles.

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#### A. J. LARSON.

A. J. Larson has devoted the greater part of his life to general farming and since 1894 has resided continuously in Lee county, giving undivided attention to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Norway, November 4, 1863, and is a son of L. and Isabella Larson, who were also natives of the land of the midnight sun. The father is still living there at the age of eighty-five years, but the mother has passed away.

A. J. Larson is one of a family of seven children. He acquired a common-school education and in 1882 came to the new world, attracted by the opportunities offered on this side of the Atlantic. He located in Lee county, Illinois, where he was employed at farm labor for some years and then removed to Chicago in 1888, spending five years in that city. He afterward returned to Lee county and in 1894 began farming on his own account. He is

energetic and persistent and whatever success he has attained is attributable entirely to his own labors, for he came to the United States empty-handed and by persistent energy has reached the position which he now occupies as one of the well-to-do citizens of Alto township.

In 1894 Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Jameson, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, a daughter of Ole and Belinda Jameson, both of whom were natives of Norway, whence they came to America in the early '60s. The mother died in this county, but the father survives. Mrs. Larson is one of a family of three children, and by her marriage became the mother of seven children: Ida B., who acquired a normal-school education and is now engaged in teaching; Leola G.; Carl A.; Ruth E.; William H.; Hattie M.; and Oscar S. The parents attend the Lutheran church, and its teachings form the guiding spirit in their lives. Mr. Larson votes with the republican party and is now serving as assessor of Alto township. He keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day and is interested in all that pertains to general progress, being a public-spirited citizen.

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### JAMES F. DEMPSEY.

James F. Dempsey devotes his attention to that occupation which George Washington designated as the most honorable as well as the most useful pursuit of man, owning and operating an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Marion township. His birth occurred in Lee county in 1865, his parents being Lawrence and Margaret (Campbell) Dempsey, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in Amboy. The father, one of the prominent old settlers of the county, came here direct from County Wexford, Ireland, and spent the remainder of his life in Lee county, passing away in 1904. The mother was called to her final rest in 1907.

James F. Dempsey attended school in his native county until twenty-three years of age and subsequently assisted his father in the operation of the home farm for about five years. At the end of that time he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, acquiring a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Marion township, in the cultivation of which he has been actively

engaged continuously since. He devotes his attention to the raising of grain and annually gathers good crops which find a ready sale on the market. The buildings on the property, including a substantial and attractive residence, were erected by him and bear evidence of his prosperity.

In 1893, in Amboy, Mr. Dempsey was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Flannery, a daughter of John and Catherine (Gallery) Flannery, who were early pioneer settlers of Lee county. Both are deceased and lied buried in Amboy, the father passing away on the 23d of November, 1894, and the mother on the 14th of January, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey have five children, as follows: James P., Harold F., Edna, Viola and Charles, all of whom are attending school.

Mr. Dempsey gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has served in the capacity of township assessor for about two years, making a creditable record in that connection. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his religious belief is that of the Catholic church. Having passed all his life within the confines of Lee county, his record is well known to the residents of this community, and in the fact that he has gained widespread confidence and regard, trust and esteem, lies his truest and most enviable success.

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### N. H. SANDERS.

Lee county numbers among its most progressive and successful native sons and among the men who have in later years been prominent factors in promoting agricultural development, N. H. Sanders, an extensive landowner in Bradford township, and one of the leading stock dealers and shippers in this part of the state. He was born in this county, June 5, 1882, and is a son of J. F. Sanders, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

N. H. Sanders remained at home until he was twenty-three years of age and then rented a farm, which he now occupies. With characteristic energy he carried forward the work of developing this place along progressive and modern lines with the result that he was soon able to purchase the property. It comprises two hundred and forty acres on section 4, Bradford township, and Mr. Sanders makes his home upon it, while carrying forward the work



of supervising his extensive interests here and elsewhere. He owns in addition to it, two hundred and eighty acres in Ashton township, adjoining the village of Ashton, and three hundred and twenty acres in Osceola county, inherited from his grandfather, Mr. George, of Lee county. Mr. Sanders specializes in the raising of high-grade stock and has now a flock of twenty-five hundred sheep and a number of Poland-China hogs. He is regarded as an expert judge of stock values, and the animals which he breeds command a high price and a ready sale upon the market. All of the land which he owns is in a high state of cultivation, equipped with substantial buildings and provided with modern machinery.

Mr. Sanders has been twice married. He wedded first Louise Kelley, a daughter of Peter Kelley, who died in 1910, leaving a son, Murrill D. Sanders. In 1912 Mr. Sanders wedded Miss Mildred Suter, a daughter of Rev. Cyrus Suter of Franklin Grove, this county. Mr. Sanders is a member of the Presbyterian church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. Although he is never active as an office seeker he takes an intelligent interest in the welfare and growth of his native community, where he is held in high honor and esteem as a young man whose energy, enterprise and progressive spirit have been the foundation stones of his success.

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### F. H. HILL.

F. H. Hill, carrying on general farming and dairying upon a fine tract of eight hundred and twelve acres in Dixon township, was born in Lee county, Illinois, January 25, 1860, a son of Jacob and Lucy Hill, the former born in Laneaster county and the latter in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. The parents came to Lee county in 1858 and located on a farm here, where they spent the remainder of their lives. To their union were born seven children, of whom the subject of this review is the only one surviving.

F. H. Hill acquired his education in the public schools of Lee county and following the completion of his studies remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age. He then spent three years working at farming in the employ of others, after which he rented a farm. At the end of eight years he purchased the old homestead of one hundred and seventy-two acres in Dixon

township and this property he has since operated, adding to it from time to time until his holdings comprise today eight hundred and twelve acres. Mr. Hill specializes in dairying, keeping a fine herd of fifty milch cows, and he has also about thirty head of young cattle. His general farming and stock-raising interests are extensive and important, and his success in their conduct places him in the front ranks of progressive agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Hill married Miss Lottie Miller, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Miller, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in the early '60s, locating on a farm in Lee county, where both passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have become the parents of four children: Samuel J. and Lester, at home; Frederick, deceased, and Lee, at home. Mr. Hill gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is now serving in a capable and progressive way as school trustee. He is one of Lee county's most energetic and enterprising native sons, and he enjoys in full measure the confidence and good-will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### FRANK K. EMMONS.

Frank K. Emmons, specializing in the breeding and raising of high-grade stock upon a farm of two hundred acres on sections 2 and 3, May township, was born in Lee county, June 12, 1873. He is a son of Abe and Mary (Hall) Emmons, the former of whom came to this part of Illinois from Kendall county about the year 1870 and settled upon a farm about half a mile from the property upon which his son now resides. He is now living retired with the subject of this review. The family is of English origin and of old American establishment, the first representative in this country having settled in New Jersey in the early part of the seventeenth century.

Frank K. Emmons acquired his education in private schools in Amboy and Dixon Normal College, later taking a course in a business college at Amboy. After laying aside his books he assisted with the operation of the home farm for some time. In 1895 he made his first purchase of land but after a few years sold this and bought the property which he now owns. He has two hundred acres on sections 2 and 3, May township, and concen-

trates his attention upon the breeding of high-grade stock. He has met with a gratifying measure of success and is known as one of the representative stockmen of his locality.

In Lee Center, on the 26th of September, 1900, Mr. Emmons married Miss Lena Keller, a daughter of Frank and Della (Avery) Keller, the former for many years a well known farmer in Lee county and now a resident of Amboy. His wife has passed away and is buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Emmons have two children, Gertrude and Helen, who are attending school.

Mr. Emmons is a republican in his political beliefs and interested in the progress of the community, although his attention is concentrated upon his business affairs, in which he has met with a success which is the natural result of his constant labor and intelligent management.

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### ELHANAN D. CHANDLER.

Elhanan D. Chandler, who has remained a resident of Lee county during the past fifty-seven years, is well known and highly esteemed as one of its representative and successful agriculturists, owning a farm of one hundred and forty-six acres on section 9, East Grove township. His birth occurred in Union county, Ohio, in 1838, his parents being Winthrop and Lucy (Hammond) Chandler, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in the Walnut cemetery of Bureau county, Illinois. The father passed away in the year 1861, while the mother was called to her final rest in 1865.

Elhanan D. Chandler acquired his education in the schools of his native state and when twenty years of age put aside his textbooks and turned his attention to the buying and selling of cattle, also being engaged in farming on his own account for three years. On the expiration of that period he came into possession of a farm of one hundred and forty-six acres on section 9, East Grove township, in Lee county, the operation of which has claimed his time and energies continuously since. In addition to the cultivation of cereals he also devotes considerable attention to live stock, keeping about five horses, sixteen head of cattle and fourteen hogs. The residence and other buildings on the place were erected by him, and as the years have gone by he has won a gratifying

and well merited measure of prosperity in the careful conduct of his agricultural interests.

Mr. Chandler has been married twice. In Princeton, Illinois, in 1859, he wedded Miss Martha A. Bradshaw, a daughter of James and May Bradshaw, both of whom are deceased and lie buried in Sublette, Illinois. By this union there were the following children: Lucy M., the widow of Olaf Nelson, who passed away in 1889 and is buried at Ottawa, Illinois; Edith, whose demise occurred at Rock Falls, Illinois, in 1892, and who was the wife of Robert Nicholls, a mechanic in the Keystone shop at Rock Falls; Minnie, who gave her hand in marriage to Phillip Boose, an engineer residing in Dixon; and Dorwin, an agriculturist of Lee county. In 1888 Mr. Chandler was united in marriage to Mrs. Annie Biggs, a daughter of Lawrence and Mary Ann (Lunnry) McLeod. The father's demise occurred in 1878 and the mother passed away in 1874, the remains of both being interred in New York city. By his second wife Mr. Chandler has four children, as follows: Elliot, who is an engineer of Red River, Minnesota; and Myrtle, Lawrence and Pansy, all of whom are at home.

In his political views Mr. Chandler is a progressive, being a staunch admirer of Theodore Roosevelt and a firm believer in his policy of government. He has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey and enjoys the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable.

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### WILLIAM MEISTER.

One of the progressive and active young business men of Ashton is William Meister, who conducts there a first class livery. He is a native son of Lee county, born January 26, 1890, his parents being George and Catherine (Stutzel) Meister, natives of Germany. They came to America as children and both grew to maturity in Lee county, where their marriage occurred. The father passed away in 1908 and is survived by his wife, who has reached the age of sixty-one. To their union were born five children: Ernest, of Ashton; Elizabeth, who has passed away; Mary, the



wife of George Walters, a farmer of Ashton township; Charles, deceased; and William, of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the public schools of Lee county and remained at home until his marriage, which occurred in 1907. He then established himself in the butcher business and after a few years bought a livery stable in Ashton, which he has since conducted. He has a number of attractive carriages, buggies and automobiles and controls a large and representative patronage.

Mr. Meister married Miss Beulah H. Hurd, a native of Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary Hurd. Mr. and Mrs. Meister have become the parents of a son, G. W., born January 9, 1908. They are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Meister gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is a young man of energy, ability and enterprise and these qualities will undoubtedly carry him forward into still more important relations with business interests of Ashton.

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### WILLIAM F. BUNGER.

William F. Bungler, engaged in general farming upon two hundred and forty-eight acres of excellent land on section 24, Ashton township, was born in Germany, August 21, 1872. He is a son of Peter and Etta (Decker) Bungler, also natives of Germany, who came to America in 1885, locating in Peoria county, Illinois. To their union were born thirteen children, of whom six are yet living.

William F. Bungler was reared in Peoria county and there acquired a district school education. He remained at home until he was twenty-eight years of age and then engaged in farming upon rented land, living upon this property for nine years. He made his first purchase of land in Lee county, buying two hundred and forty-eight acres on section 24, Ashton township. Upon this farm he has resided since that time and his interests have steadily grown in importance until he is today one of the leading agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Bungler married Miss Katherine Bruns, a native of Peoria, Illinois, and a daughter of Heye and Gretchen Bruns, both of whom were born in Germany. The parents came to America at an early date and both passed away in this country.



They had four children, of whom three still survive. Mr. and Mrs. Bunger have become the parents of four children, Etta M., Gretchen K., Edith H. and William F. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Bunger gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. His success is largely the result of his own energy and enterprise, and these qualities have made him widely and favorably known in the community.

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### J. E. LEWIS.

J. E. Lewis, engaged in the practice of law in Amboy since 1877, occupying a suite of rooms in the postoffice building, was born December 21, 1847, in the city which is still his home and is the oldest native resident in his part of the county. His parents were Joseph and Rachel (Cargill) Lewis. The Lewis family is of Welsh origin and was established in America long prior to the Revolutionary war. The great-grandfather of our subject was wagon master for General Putnam during the struggle for independence. Our subject's grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Cole, wife of Nathaniel Cole, was a niece of Pickering, the naturalist, who traveled extensively over the globe with Commodore Perry. Joseph, father of our subject, came to Lee county in the spring of 1845 from Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. He found here a district which was largely wild prairie, and he settled upon a tract which he converted into rich fields, leading a busy life as an enterprising agriculturist. In politics he was a republican. His death occurred in 1882 when he was seventy-six years of age and his wife passed away some years later at the advanced age of ninety years. They were laid to rest in Oakridge cemetery near Amboy. One of their sons, James C., died while serving in Company C, Eighty-ninth Regiment of Illinois Infantry, meeting death at Chattanooga. Two other sons, John and Andrew, died while members of the Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, known as the Yates Phalanx.

J. E. Lewis, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the Amboy high school and in the Mount Morris seminary, from which he was graduated in 1868. He afterward began reading law under the direction of Norman H. Ryan and later taught school as principal for some years in Rockton, Illinois. Another year was spent upon the home farm, and in 1877

he was admitted to the bar, since which time he has engaged in practice in Amboy. Here he has been accorded a liberal and distinctively representative clientage, and his devotion to his clients' interest is proverbial. That he has prospered as the years have gone by is indicated in the fact of his investments in real estate. These have been most judiciously made, and he is now the owner of the postoffice building and several other business blocks of the city.

In Ogle county, Illinois, December 21, 1870, Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Margaret M. Hayes, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Hayes and a granddaughter of Captain Cameron, who was killed by the Driscoll bandits, when he was acting as captain of the vigilance committee. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have passed away and are laid to rest in White Rock cemetery in Ogle county. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have become the parents of six children: Benjamin D., a salesman residing at home; Ada E., the wife of John H. Heil, principal of the Morgan Park school of Cook county; Fred E., a carpenter of Amboy; Paul R., who was court reporter with Judge Bond, afterward in the naval department and later chief law agent with the Morgan Railroad System, but who died in March, 1904; Ethel E., who died at the age of sixteen years, and Stella B., who died in Rockton, Illinois, in 1873, when but two years of age.

In politics Mr. Lewis is a stalwart republican and has been clerk of Amboy township since 1895. He has practically had charge of township affairs since 1878, acting at all times as attorney in such matters. He was postmaster of Amboy under Benjamin Harrison. No citizen of the community is more public-spirited or more loyal to the welfare of the district. Mr. Lewis is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and is faithful to the teachings and high ideals of that organization.

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#### MODEST L. GEHANT.

The name of Gehant is a familiar and respected one in Lee county, a number of representatives of the family having spent their entire lives within its borders and being here successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits. Modest L. Gehant, of this review, is a worthy native son of the county and the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and thirty-one acres on

sections 33 and 34, Viola township. He was born on the 19th of April, 1874, a son of Modest and Olympia (Chaon) Gehant. The father, whose demise occurred in February, 1904, lies buried at West Brooklyn, but the mother survives at the age of sixty-nine years and resides in Brooklyn township.

In the acquirement of an education Modest L. Gehant attended the schools of Lee county until fifteen years of age and subsequently devoted his entire time to assisting his father in the operation of the home farm, being thus engaged until the latter passed away. At that time he came into possession of the tract which he owns and operates at present and which embraces one hundred and thirty-one acres of rich and productive land on sections 33 and 34, Viola township. He engages in mixed farming and keeps about eleven horses and about fifteen head of cattle. Success has attended his undertakings in such measure that he has long been numbered among the prosperous and representative citizens of the community. All of the buildings on his property, including an attractive and commodious residence, were erected by him and are kept in good repair.

On the 16th of May, 1907, in Dixon, Mr. Gehant was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Jacobs, her parents being Henry and Fannie (Rothamaker) Jacobs, residents of Iowa. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and is at all times a most loyal and public-spirited citizen. In religious belief he is a Catholic. He has remained a resident of Lee county from his birth to the present time, and that his life has ever been upright and honorable is indicated in the fact that the associates of his boyhood and youth are still numbered among his stanch friends and admirers.

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### JOHN H. GROVE.

John H. Grove, serving in a creditable and able manner as supervisor of Willow Creek township and connected with agricultural interests through the operation of his father's farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 21, is a native of Lee county, born in the house in which he now resides July 19, 1874. He is a son of William H. and Amanda N. (Gee) Grove, the former of whom came from Ohio to Lee county in October, 1865. He purchased a farm near Scarboro and improved this until

1867, when he sold the place and bought the property which he still owns. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having volunteered for service in the Union army and having been at the front for two years. He was wounded in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. William H. Grove resides retired in Willow Creek township and has survived his wife since 1895. The family is of German origin, the name having been changed from Graaf to Grove during the lifetime of the grandfather of the subject of this review. Through his grandmother Mr. Grove is a direct descendant of Henry Clay.

John H. Grove acquired his education in the district schools of Willow Creek township, attending until he was seventeen years of age. He afterward assisted his father until he was twenty-four and then rented the homestead, which he has since operated. In April, 1911, he was elected supervisor of the township, and he has since served in that capacity, discharging his duties in a way which reflects credit upon his ability and his public spirit.

In Rochelle, Illinois, July 1, 1899, Mr. Grove was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Mae Willson, a daughter of Richard and Anna (Dugan) Willson, the former at one time a well known farmer of Earlville, Illinois, and now a resident of Rochelle. Mr. and Mrs. Grove have the following children: Luella, who is attending school; Richard H.; and Helen.

Mr. Grove gives his political allegiance to the republican party and in addition to the office which he now holds has been township clerk, tax collector and president of the board of education. He has proved efficient and capable in positions of public trust and responsibility, and he holds the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has had official or business dealings.

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### WILLIAM A. SCHULER.

William A. Schuler, a member of the local board of improvements and street commissioners, has ever manifested a practical and helpful interest in matters of public concern. At the same time he has ably and successfully conducted important business affairs and is the owner of much valuable property in and near Dixon, from which he derives a substantial income, his capable management thereof being manifest in the success which has rewarded his efforts. He was born in Ottawa, Illinois, March 25,



1856, and is a son of George L. and Tressa (Munn) Schuler, the former a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The father came to Illinois on the same train on which Potter Palmer, the noted hotel man of Chicago, made his first trip to the west, and they became acquainted while en route. George L. Schuler made his way to Ottawa, where he engaged in the hardware business, and later was located for a time at Reading, Illinois. The year 1861 witnessed his arrival in Dixon, where he engaged in the dry-goods trade, purchasing a store of Judge Wood. Here he continued in business until his death, which occurred in 1895, and throughout the entire period, covering more than a third of a century, ranked as one of the leading and enterprising merchants of the city, being possessed of those traits and qualities which work for progress and honor in business life. His widow survived him for about fifteen years, passing away in 1910. In politics Mr. Schuler was a democrat, active in the party ranks, and his cooperation could always be counted upon to further any movement having to do with civic betterment or improvement.

William A. Schuler was a lad of but five years when brought by his parents to Dixon, so that he had the advantages of training in the public schools here. When his school days were over he went to southwestern Kansas, where he was engaged in the cattle business. At one time he was also connected with the dry-goods business at Streator, Illinois, for five years. About 1895 he returned to Dixon, where he established and conducted a lumberyard, finding it a profitable source of income, owing to his capable management and keen business discrimination. From that time forward he has been closely connected with the development and improvement of the city along material lines and all of his investments have been made judiciously, bringing to him a very gratifying measure of success. In 1910 he erected the Dixon Inn, one of the leading hotels of the city, which he conducted successfully until the spring of 1913, making it a popular and well patronized hostlery. He sold out at the date mentioned and is now giving his attention to the supervision of his investments and to his public duties. He owns several farms and city buildings and from his realty derives a substantial annual income.

In January, 1895, Mr. Schuler was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Elizabeth De Mint and unto them have been born three sons, while by a former marriage Mr. Schuler also has one son. Mrs. Schuler is a daughter of Charles De Mint, one of the old-time and prominent residents of Dixon. In his fraternal rela-



tions Mr. Schuler is an Elk, while his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He has always been interested in matters relating to the general welfare, and his cooperation can always be counted upon to further the public good. He is a member of the local board of improvements and street commissioners and is keenly interested in all of those things which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. What he has accomplished in a busy life represents the fit utilization of the innate talents which are his and proves that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment and experience.

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### CHARLES A. NICHOLS.

Among the valued and representative native sons of Lee county is numbered Charles A. Nichols, whose fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres lies on section 6, May township, and is a visible evidence of his life of industry and thrift. He was born August 1, 1860, and is a son of Henry and Eva (Barns) Nichols, the former of whom came to Lee county from New York state, settling first in Binghamton. From there he enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil war and after his discharge he returned to this part of Illinois, turning his attention to farming. He bought a tract of raw prairie land and for many years thereafter developed and improved it, making it eventually one of the finest properties in the locality. He passed away in 1896 and was survived by his wife for two years. Both are buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. The family is of Scotch and German origin and its representatives settled in Canada before coming to the United States.

Charles A. Nichols acquired his education in the district schools of Lee county, attending until he was eighteen years of age. He afterward assisted his father with the work of the farm until he was twenty-one and then rented one hundred acres of the homestead. He later inherited this tract, to which he has since added twenty acres, and upon this fine property he engages in general farming and stock-raising. Under his able management his interests have become extensive and important and he has taken a place among the substantial and representative farmers of his native county.

In May township, December 31, 1885, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Acker, a daughter of Jeremiah and Lucy Acker, the former for many years a prominent farmer of Lee county. Both have passed away and are buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have become the parents of four children: E. A., a farmer in Lee county; R. C., assisting his father; Eva L., at home; and Mabel E., attending school.

Mr. Nichols is connected fraternally with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. For the past five years he has been justice of the peace and he has been a member of the school board for fifteen years, the cause of education finding in him an earnest and able champion. Mr. Nichols is well known in his part of Lee county and in all relations of life has proved upright, capable and straightforward.

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### JOHN EWALD.

One of the excellent stock farms of Reynolds township is that owned by John Ewald, who is a member of a family that has been very prominent in advancing the farming and stock breeding and raising interests of Lee county. He was born in Scott township, Ogle county, Illinois, November 15, 1874, and is a son of Henry and Anna Martha Ewald, of whom mention is made in connection with the sketch of Charles Ewald, elsewhere in this volume.

John Ewald spent the first five years of his life in his native county and in 1879 was brought by his parents to Lee county, where he has since lived. His experiences were those which usually fall to the lot of the farm lad and his early training brought him practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He acquired a common-school education and when not busy with his text-books his time and attention were given to various parts of the farm work. He continued at home until he attained his majority and eventually through purchase became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 27, Reynolds township. This is the old homestead property and is one of the good farms of the county. The fields produce good crops, for the soil is naturally rich and productive and his methods of crop production are practical and progressive.

However, he makes a specialty of raising and breeding Duroc Jersey hogs and shorthorn cattle and is successful with both, having at all times upon his place many head of high-grade stock. He is an excellent judge of both hogs and cattle and seldom makes a mistake in purchasing an animal. He is recognized as a thoroughly reliable business man, straightforward in all his dealings and enterprising in all that he undertakes.

On the 2d of October, 1911, Mr. Ewald was united in marriage to Miss Rose May Hampton, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, April 1, 1879, and is a daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Lambert) Hampton, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Missouri. Removing to this state, they settled in Lee county and are now residents of Paw Paw, Illinois, where Mr. Hampton is living retired, having put aside all business cares. They had a family of nine children, seven of whom survive. Mr. and Mrs. Ewald are the parents of one son, Arthur Adrian, who was born July 3, 1912, and is the light and life of the household. The parents belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Ewald is a progressive in politics. He has served as township clerk and as school director and is interested in all those measures and movements which have to do with the upbuilding and benefit of township and county. His has been a useful and well spent life and the success which has crowned his efforts is the merited reward of earnest, persistent and honorable labor.

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### SHERWOOD DIXON.

The city of Dixon has produced many prominent lawyers, a large number winning much more than local fame as representatives of the bar. To this class belongs Sherwood Dixon, who was born November 15, 1847, in the city which bears his family name, his parents being James P. and Fannie (Reed) Dixon, while his grandfather was John Dixon. His youthful days were passed in his native city, and his preparation for the legal profession culminated in his admission to the bar January 13, 1869. He was appointed United States district attorney for the northern district of Illinois by President Cleveland on the 18th of July, 1894. He had at that time engaged in practice for a quarter of a century and year after year had given further demonstration of his worth and ability. His devotion to his clients' interests was pro-

verbial, yet he never forgot that he owed a still higher allegiance to the majesty of the law. Following his presidential appointment he entered upon the discharge of his duties in Chicago, December 2, 1894. He had previously resided in Chicago for a few years in the decade between 1870 and 1880. Otherwise, save for the last few months of his life, he was continually a resident of Dixon, where he was most highly esteemed not only in professional but also in social circles, and his upright life and character are evidenced in the fact that many of his stanchest friends were those who knew him from his boyhood.

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### JOHN M. EGAN, JR.

Through his enterprise, industry and natural ability John M. Egan, Jr., has made rapid and steady advancement as a civil engineer and is today ranked among the most able representatives of his profession in Lee county. He was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, April 27, 1880, and is a son of John M. and Susanna (Gallagher) Egan, both of Irish ancestry. The father came to Lee county in 1854 in the interests of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, for whom he built the shops at Amboy. He has since become known as one of the greatest railroad builders in Illinois, thousands of miles of tracks having been laid under his supervision. He is president of the Metropolitan Street Railway of Kansas City, Missouri, and also one of the largest landowners in this section of Illinois, having developed his extensive holdings here into a model farm.

John M. Egan, Jr., acquired his primary education in the schools of St. Paul, Minnesota, and was graduated from high school in 1898. He immediately afterward entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston and after his graduation engaged in railroad construction work in Georgia and Alabama for about eight years. At the end of that time he returned to Illinois and since 1907 has had offices in the First National Bank building in Amboy. He makes a specialty of drainage work and land reclamation and has already reclaimed about twenty thousand acres in this locality. He has assisted the engineer of the inlet swamp drainage district and has been chief engineer for several similar districts throughout the state, besides serving with credit and ability as city engineer of Dixon and



Amboy. He is recognized as a young man of superior professional attainments and the work he has already accomplished reflects great credit upon his industry, capacity and ability.

In Marquette, Michigan, on the 11th of October, 1905, Mr. Egan married Miss Lottie Pendill, a daughter of Frank and Mary (Mitchell) Pendill. The former was for many years a well known druggist of Marquette and he died in that city in January, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Egan have a daughter, M. Jane, who is five years of age.

Mr. Egan is a member of the Roman Catholic church and is connected fraternally with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of Dixon. He is independent in his political views and interested in public affairs, although not active as an office seeker. He is a young man of energy, resource and capacity and he will undoubtedly be carried forward into still more important professional relations.

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### SAMUEL P. ZELLER.

Samuel P. Zeller, who is filling the position of assessor in Ashton township and is also serving on the school board of Ashton, is one of the representative business men of Lee county, having conducted large and important interests. In earlier life he was connected with the grain and lumber business, and he is now engaged in the feed business, handling from fifteen to twenty thousand bushels annually. A native of Ohio, his birth occurred in Warren county, June 5, 1853, his parents being Andrew P. and Maria (Flickinger) Zeller, both of whom were natives of Ohio, where their entire lives were passed. They had a family of nine children, of whom three are living.

Samuel P. Zeller remained upon the old homestead until he had attained his majority. He then went to Iowa, where he engaged in the grain and lumber business for a year. On the expiration of that period he sold out and returned to Ohio, where he engaged in farming for a period of seven years. He next came to Lee county, Illinois, and engaged in the grain and lumber business for fifteen years, when he sold out. He was afterward located in Sterling, Illinois, in the same business for a short time but in 1902 came to Ashton, where he has since made his home. Here he embarked in the feed business, handling from fifteen to twenty



thousand bushels annually. He has prospered in his undertaking; brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by persistent and determined effort. He had as the basis for his success a college education combined with energy and determination, and his persistency of purpose, his honorable dealing and his ambition have been salient features in making him one of the prosperous business men of his locality. He owns a fine residence in Ashton and is also the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land in Dakota.

In 1880 Mr. Zeller was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Foster, who was born in Ohio and is a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Foster, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state, where they spent their entire lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Zeller were born five children: Nellie F., who is a graduate of the high school in Ashton and has also spent some time in studying music; Samuel P., who is married and lives in Ashton; Clarence A., deceased; Ruth L., a graduate of the high school; and Ralph, who has also passed away.

The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are interested in its work and progress. Mr. Zeller is a republican and is now capably serving as assessor of Ashton township. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend, and he has done good work as a member of the school board. Fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to Ashton Lodge, No. 531, A. F. & A. M. He has taken high degrees in the fraternity and is now a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is also well known as a member of Ashton Lodge, No. 977, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all of the chairs. He is ever loyal to the teachings of these organizations, which are based upon the principle of mutual helpfulness and kindness with a recognition of the brotherhood of mankind.

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#### F. E. GATES.

F. E. Gates is a retired farmer residing at Paw Paw. He found in his business interests as an agriculturist the opportunity for the attainment of success, and making wise use of his time, he eventually gained the competence that now supplies him with all of the comforts of life. He resides in Paw Paw and has been a

resident of Lee county since 1847, arriving here when but two years of age.

He was born at Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, March 20, 1845, and is a son of Erastus and Martha M. (Page) Gates. The father came from Knox county, Ohio, to this state at an early day and for many years engaged in teaching school in Kane county and also in Paw Paw. In conjunction with that profession he became one of the extensive farmers of his district, managing important property interests. He died in 1876 at the age of sixty years, while his wife passed away at the age of thirty-six years. Mr. Gates' remains were interred in the Sierra Valley cemetery of California, to which state he went in 1851. His wife lies buried in Knox county, Ohio. The family was of English lineage and the ancestry is traced back to Sir Thomas Gates of England and Stephen Gates, who came to this country in 1637. Among the ancestors were also those who won fame in connection with military affairs, including Captain Stephen Gates and General Gates, who was one of the commanders of the American forces in the Revolutionary war.

F. E. Gates acquired his education in the district schools and in the academy at East Paw Paw, where he continued his studies to the age of twenty years. However, when a youth of eighteen years he had volunteered for service in the Civil war and had become a member of Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In 1865 he returned to the academy and there remained until 1867. For a year he engaged in teaching school and afterward began farming on his own account, having four acres which he devoted to the raising of hops. With the profits of the crop he purchased seventy acres and from time to time increased his holdings until he was the owner of twelve hundred acres. He engaged in general farming, cattle raising and dairying, conducting the business along extensive lines until he disposed of his land. He is now making investments in real estate in Illinois and Florida and also engages in making loans. When Mr. Gates was a small boy he hired out to a farmer, who sold his farm and with it young Gates, just as he disposed of the chattels and goods. This is an experience which perhaps no other man in the county has had.

Mr. Gates was married July 7, 1866, to Miss Polly M. Robinson, a daughter of Nathaniel and Doreas Robinson, both now deceased, their remains having been interred in the South Paw Paw cemetery. Her father was one of the pioneer farmers of the

county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gates have been born three children: Andrew, a civil engineer of Monmouth, Illinois; Albert R., an attorney at law with offices at No. 100 Washington street, Chicago; and Carrie W., the wife of Frank Pulver, a farmer of Indiana.

Mr. Gates is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and has filled all of the offices in his local post. In politics he is now a progressive. He has filled the office of justice of the peace for ten years and for many years has been a school director. He holds membership in the Baptist church and his has been a consistent Christian life. He has never neglected his church duties or his obligations to citizenship, even though his business affairs have been most extensive and important. He has erected a fine home and two other residences in Paw Paw and he improved all of the farms which he owns, thus contributing in substantial measure to the material development and prosperity of the county. In the winter he resides in St. Petersburg, Florida. The most envious cannot grudge him his success, so honorably has it been won and so wisely used.

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### HORACE G. REYNOLDS.

Horace G. Reynolds, organizer and promoter of the Reynolds Wire Co. is one of the leading business men of Dixon, who, recognizing business opportunities that others have passed heedlessly by, has worked his way upward, each forward step bringing him a broader outlook and wider opportunities. For almost twenty years the Reynolds Wire Factory has figured as one of the substantial, productive industries of the city, the business growing steadily year by year until this is now one of the chief industrial concerns of Lee county.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1854, and is a son of John Milton and Sarah Reynolds, the former an extensive farmer. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof and before he had attained his majority he became actively connected with the newspaper business, in which he continued for nineteen years. He then sold out and came to Dixon, where in 1894 he organized the Reynolds Wire Co. He was associated with Elmer E. Reynolds, who retired June 30, 1903, selling out to Horace G. Reynolds. The latter has been president of the

business from the beginning and is the owner of three-fourths of the stock. In 1907 D. G. Harvey purchased an interest and is now vice president and treasurer with J. C. Schmele as secretary. George W. Reynolds, a brother of H. G. Reynolds, entered the factory in 1897 and has for some time been superintendent of one of the departments. The concern manufactures window screen cloth, its output being black painted copper bronze and galvanized screen cloth. They also make wire specialties, including corn poppers, fly traps, flour sifters, etc. At the time of the organization the company became interested in the dam and water power at Dixon and thus operate the mill but also have steam power for emergencies. All power is converted into electricity through a two hundred horse power Westinghouse generator. There are individual motors and the plant is most thoroughly equipped in every particular. Their factory is four stories in height and includes one hundred thousand square feet of floor space. The building in 1911 was rebuilt of reenforced concrete of the flat slab type of construction. There is sprinkler equipment for fire, with two sources of water supply. Employment is furnished to one hundred and twenty-five people, and the output is sold mostly in the central west, but extensive shipments are also made to the coast and to the southwest. Something of the notably rapid growth of the business is indicated in the fact that their sales have doubled in the past two years, now aggregating over five hundred thousand dollars per annum. Since taking up this business Mr. Reynolds has concentrated his energies upon administrative direction and executive control. He has full faith in the enterprise and its possibilities, and his sound business judgment is shown in its continuous growth.

In 1884 Mr. Reynolds was united in marriage to Miss Letitia J. Lyon, of New York city, and they have two daughters: Pauline Reynolds Harvey, the wife of Douglas G. Harvey, who is acting as superintendent of the wire factory and resides in Dixon; and Lucile G., at home. Mr. Reynolds holds membership with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and his political sympathies are with the progressive party. The family attend and are members of the Episcopal church and are prominent socially. Mr. Reynolds thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and friends. A man of great natural ability, his success in business from the beginning of his residence in Dixon has been uniform and rapid. No plan or movement for the benefit of the city along lines of progress and improvement seeks his



aid in vain. In his life are the elements of greatness because of the use he has made of his talents and opportunities, because his thoughts are not self-centered but are given to the mastery of life's problems and the fulfillment of his duty as a man in his relations to his fellowmen and as a citizen in his relations to the district in which he lives.

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### JOHN DIEHL LAHMAN.

With agricultural and manufacturing interests John Diehl Lahman was long actively connected and since 1889 has been president of the Franklin Grove Bank, being chosen for the present position on the organization of that institution. He was born June 22, 1834, in Washington county, Maryland, one-half mile north of the Potomac river, five miles south of Williamsport. When ten years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Lee county and for some time they lived on the southeast quarter of section 35, township 22, range 10, which farm the father purchased May 26, 1845, save a tract of thirty-one acres. The father, Christian Lahman, Jr., was born February 25, 1808, in Adams county, Pennsylvania, and married Elizabeth Emmert, who was born June 12, 1812, in Washington county, Maryland, east of the Antietam river. Christian Lahman, Sr., built a flour mill near Bendersville, Adams county, Pennsylvania, about 1800, and in time his son and namesake became owner of a third interest in the mill, which interest he sold in 1831. About the same time he married Elizabeth Emmert and in 1833 they took up their abode upon a farm near Williamsport, in Washington county, Maryland, residing in that locality for about ten years and afterward for two years lived north of Hagerstown, Maryland, one mile south of the Pennsylvania state line. In the spring of 1845 they started with their family to Lee county, Illinois, traveling by team, and resided near the present site of Franklin Grove. The father there successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1864, when his life's labors were ended in death. He had also devoted considerable time to the manufacture of flour, owning and operating a mill for a number of years that was built by his father-in-law, Joseph Emmert, on Franklin creek, two and a half miles northwest of Franklin Grove, about 1846 or 1847. It was about 1849 that he laid out in town lots ten acres of land, which



was later known as Chaplin and now constitutes the southwestern part of the village of Franklin Grove, which village was laid out in 1853 for A. W. Tolman, Christian Lahman and F. D. Robertson. He became the owner of several farms and assisted many early settlers financially and with wise counsel. His life was, indeed, an exemplary one in all of its business and personal relations. He and his wife were members of the Church of the Brethren (Dunkard). To them were born seven sons and three daughters. Two of the sons, William H., now of Chicago, and John D., of this review, are still living. The mother survived her husband for several years, passing away in 1872.

John D. Lahman had but limited educational opportunities. He attended the country schools and spent two terms as a pupil at Lee Center. He remained upon the home farm until he attained his majority, then learned the milling business and afterward operated his father's mill on Franklin creek, which mill he and his brother Joseph C. afterward purchased. This was the same mill which their maternal grandfather, Joseph Emmert, had built about 1847. Mr. Lahman followed the milling business until 1861, when he purchased and located upon the southeast quarter of section 26, township 22, range 10, this farm being about a mile and a half north of Franklin Grove. Upon that farm he and his wife resided until they removed to Franklin Grove thirty years later, and throughout the entire period he had his land under a high state of cultivation, making it one of the valuable properties of the district. In addition to farming Mr. Lahman was a member of the firm of J. D. Lahman & Company, which for a number of years engaged in the manufacture of the Great Western Seeder, which machine obtained a large sale in the west and northwest. He was also interested in stock-raising and feeding in Story county, Iowa, and dealt quite largely in farm real estate. He has served as president of the Franklin Grove Bank for twenty-five years, commencing with its organization in 1889.

On the 11th of November, 1860, at Panora, Guthrie county, Iowa, Mr. Lahman was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Haughtelin, a daughter of John C. and Eliza (Diehl) Haughtelin, all members of the Church of the Brethren. Her father was a descendant of Abraham H. Haughtelin (or Hoogtalin), who served in the Revolutionary war, participating in fourteen battles. Her great-great-grandfather, Huskeya (Hezekiah) Hoogtalin, was born in the vicinity of East Shore, New Jersey, in 1729. He

had ten children in all, and three of his sons settled a little south-east of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Lahman were born three children. Clarence W. was born near Franklin Grove, March 1, 1862, and married December 9, 1889, Miss Martha Beery at her father's farm near Pleasant Hill, Miami county, Ohio. Vinna A., who was born October 27, 1871, died June 19, 1889, of scarlet fever, while attending Cornell College in Iowa, and an infant son died October 26, 1873. To the living son, Clarence W. Lahman, and his wife, both of whom are members of the Church of the Brethern, have been born three daughters and three sons: Mary, now the wife of Loring J. Whiteside; Lela; Helen; John Harold; Wilford Clarence; and Joseph Beery. Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lahman also became foster parents to several children needing homes, death having in each case deprived them of their father or mother. These were Walter Keiser, Mary Shuhart, Oscar Chamberlin, Hiram Tibbals, Wilford Tibbals and Estella Haughtelin. They also cared for Wilbur Brecunier during his early life from thirty months to five years. Certainly the foster parents have done their share of good in the world in thus caring for orphaned children, upon whom they have bestowed the training and affection given to their own. They have been most liberal in their support of the Church of the Brethren of which they are members, and of Christian missions in both home and foreign lands, of schools and of many benevolent and charitable projects. They are both still enjoying good health and it is hoped that they will be spared for many years to come. In politics Mr. Lahman was for many years a republican, but in later years has voted with the prohibition party, regarding the question of temperance as one of the paramount issues before the people.

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### CHARLES B. MORRISON.

Among the residents of Dixon to whom have come high professional preferment through political appointment is Charles B. Morrison and his ability in office is recognized by all who have reason to know aught of his official career. He was admitted to the bar on the 13th of June, 1877, and after practicing law successfully for about twenty-eight years he was appointed United States district attorney for the northern district of Illinois by President

Roosevelt, March 21, 1905, to succeed Solomon H. Bethea, who had been elevated to the bench of the United States district court for the northern district of Illinois. This was a recess appointment, and he was reappointed by President Roosevelt for a term of four years on the 20th of December, 1905.

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### ALMON W. ROSECRANS.

Almon W. Rosecrans needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for his connection with educational, commercial and political interests has made him widely known. Nevertheless he is a man of unassuming manner, free from ostentation, yet the sterling worth of his character has gained him high regard, while his activities have brought him a wide acquaintance. Ogle county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Lafayette township, September 5, 1851, his parents being Crandall and Emily Rosecrans.

Mr. Rosecrans' early education, acquired in the public schools, was supplemented by study in Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa, and in early manhood he entered upon the profession of teaching, becoming principal of the public schools of Ashton in 1878. For four years he continued at the head of the educational system of Ashton and the schools under his direction made continuous advancement. In 1883 he retired from the profession and turned his attention to commercial pursuits, establishing a business in Ashton, where he has since remained. More than thirty years' connection with merchandising here indicates not only something of his success but also the confidence and trust reposed in him as the result of his business integrity, his progressive methods and his unfaltering enterprise. He has always carried a good line and his reasonable prices and fair dealing have been the secret of his growing success.

On the 8th of August, 1880, in Ashton, Mr. Rosecrans was united in marriage to Miss Westanna E. Glenn, a daughter of George Glenn, and unto them have been born two children, Glenn C. and Miriam E. The parents hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and are interested in its work and upbuilding, doing much to further its interests and extend its influence. Mr. Rosecrans was elected president of the Illinois State Sunday-

School Association at Dixon, May, 1908. He presided during the session at Dixon and the following year at Peoria.

When age conferred upon Mr. Rosecrans the right of franchise he joined the ranks of the republican party, to which he gave stalwart support for many years. He is now identified with the progressive movement, feeling that it is a forward step in politics toward securing a cleaner government that shall be more the expression of the will of the people and not of the opinions of a few. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth, called him to the office of mayor and gave evidence of their satisfaction with his manner of conducting the office through his first term by reelecting him. He is indeed well known in Ashton and his part of the county, where he has now lived for about thirty-six years.

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#### STELZER APPALONIA DURKES.

Stelzer Appalonia Durkes, cashier of the Franklin Grove Bank, which position he has filled continuously since 1901, was born January 9, 1873, in Franklin Grove, his parents being Conrad and Mary Elizabeth (Jones) Durkes. The father was a pioneer merchant of that town and also the organizer of the Franklin Grove Bank. He was born in Germany, but came with his parents to America when about thirteen years of age and for many years was prominently and actively identified with the commercial and financial interests of the community in which he made his home. His wife was a native of Canada but came to the United States at an early age.

In the public schools of Franklin Grove Stelzer A. Durkes pursued his education until graduated with the class of 1889. He afterward took a commercial course in the Bryant & Stratton School in Chicago. Subsequently he was employed by his brother in the grocery business at Erie, Illinois, for several years, thus receiving his initial business training and learning something of the responsibilities and obligations which feature so largely in business affairs. He has been connected with banking interests since 1898, in which year he entered the Franklin Grove Bank as assistant cashier, succeeding to the cashiership in 1901. He is now thoroughly familiar with all forms of banking and is most careful in safeguarding the interests of the patrons of the insti-



tution. He is ever found a courteous and obliging official and is classed with the representative business men of the city.

On the 14th of March, 1895, at Franklin Grove, Mr. Durkes was married to Miss Elizabeth Lahman, a daughter of Joshua E. and Hannah Lahman. The father and his parents were among the early settlers of Franklin Grove, arriving in that vicinity in 1845. At the time of the Civil war J. E. Lahman responded to the country's call and did valiant service for the Union. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Durkes are Dorothy Jane, Luther Lahman, Clara Esther, Marion Elizabeth, Josephine Edith and Phyllis Mabel. In politics Mr. Durkes is independent, yet is not remiss in the duties of citizenship, for he is interested in all that pertains to the general welfare and cooperates in many movements for the public good. His entire life has been passed in the community where he yet makes his home and that his record is an honorable and commendable one is indicated in the fact that his warmest friends are numbered among those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time.

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### SOLOMON HICKS BETHEA.

Judicial preferment in a federal court came to Solomon Hicks Bethea in his appointment by President Roosevelt to the position of United States district judge. He was one of Lee county's native sons and one whose record reflected credit and honor upon the community in which he lived. He was born in Palmyra township, May 20, 1852, a son of William W. and Emily (Green) Bethea. He attended the Dixon public schools, supplemented by study in Rock River Seminary in Dixon, and was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1872. His preparation for the bar was followed by admission to practice in 1877. He entered at once upon the active work of the profession, and he continued to the last a student of the principles of jurisprudence. In his law practice one of his strong characteristics was the thoroughness with which he prepared his cases, and he never seemed at a loss in presenting his cause but was ready to meet any contingency. On the 20th of December, 1898, he was appointed United States district attorney for the northern district of Illinois by President McKinley and was reappointed by President Roosevelt on the 9th of December, 1902.



He held that position until appointed United States district judge for the northern district of Illinois by President Roosevelt on the 18th of March, 1905. He wore his honors with becoming modesty, and he carefully lifted the judicial ermine above the mire of partisonship. Strictly fair and impartial in his rulings, his decisions were based upon comprehensive knowledge of the law as applicable to the facts in litigation. He resided in Dixon throughout his entire life and following his judicial appointment continued upon the bench until his death, which occurred August 3, 1909.

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### IRA R. TITUS.

Ira R. Titus, cashier of the First National Bank, of Steward, Illinois, was born in Richland county, Illinois, December 29, 1862, the third son of Abraham B. Titus and Elizabeth (Chancey) Titus. When one year old he was brought by his parents to Champaign county Illinois, where he grew up on a farm about ten miles north of Urbana. Remaining with his father until twenty-two years of age, he in the meantime received his education in the district schools and a business college at Champaign and then engaged in the mercantile business at Rantoul and continued in that business for six years.

Then having formed a partnership with his brother, Edgar L. Titus, in November, 1894, they purchased the elevator and agriculture implement business of Merritt Miller at Steward, Illinois, Lee county, which they carried on under the firm name of Titus Bros. later acquiring ownership of the Steward & Henning Elevator, purchased from the L. E. Birdsell Company, and for the next eighteen months carried on an extensive grain, coal and lumber business. In the fall of 1902 they sold out the Steward & Henning Elevator and their lumber business, but still retained the ownership of the elevator first purchased. On January 1, 1903, in connection with a number of the leading business men of Steward, the Titus brothers organized the First National Bank of Steward, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. of which Ira R. Titus is at present (1914) the cashier, and his brother, Edgar L. Titus, the president—the Titus brothers being owners of the controlling interest.

On May 21, 1889, Mr. Titus was married at Rantoul, Illinois, to

Lulu Coon, and three children have been born of this marriage: Lyle, born in 1892; Ray, born in 1899; and Harry, who was born in 1905, died on the same day.

Mr. Titus is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has held several offices of honor in both church and village.



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